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UP THE WALL



'Twas 4 days before Christmas as Trump chaos hit the Capitol

The Capitol is seen at day's end as the Senate works on a House-passed bill that would pay for President Donald Trump's border wall and avert a partial government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

Associated Press

By ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — 'Twas four days before Christmas, and all through the House

— and Senate — not a shutdown solution was stirring and lawmakers, they did grouse.

The chaos that is Presi-

dent Donald Trump's White House seemed to engulf the Capitol on Friday. While the workings of Congress are often tumultuous, es-

pecially as adjournment nears, things seemed even more out of kilter than usual as a partial government shutdown loomed just

hours away.

Continued on Page 3

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FDA casts shadow on hemp win, calling CBD products illegal

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

SEATTLE (AP) — The hemp industry still has work ahead to win legal status for hemp-derived cannabidiol, or CBD oil, as an ingredient in food or dietary supplements despite the big farm bill President Donald Trump signed this week designating hemp as an agricultural crop.

CBD oils have become increasingly popular in lotions, tinctures and foods, but their legal status has been murky and the Food and Drug Administration has sent warning letters to some companies making health claims for CBD.

In a statement following Thursday's bill signing in Washington, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb restated his agency's stance that CBD is a drug ingredient and therefore illegal to add to food or health products without approval from his agency.

"Selling unapproved products with unsubstantiated therapeutic claims is not only a violation of the law, but also can put patients at risk, as these products have not been proven to



In this April 24, 2018, file photo, the first rendering from hemp plants extracted from a super critical CO₂ extraction device on its way to becoming fully refined CBD oil spouts into a large beaker at New Earth Biosciences in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press

be safe or effective," Gottlieb wrote.

CBD is a non-psychoactive compound found in hemp, a version of the cannabis plant that is low in THC, the

part of cannabis that gives pot its high.

An FDA-approved drug for the treatment of seizures, Epidiolex, contains cannabis-derived CBD. GW

Pharmaceuticals' syrup became the first prescription drug derived from the cannabis plant in June.

The FDA statement also specified parts of hemp

that are safe as food ingredients, but the CBD stance disappointed advocates. Courtney Moran, a lobbyist for Oregon hemp farmers, said she plans to work with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, to nudge the FDA toward greater acceptance of CBD.

"We do hope the FDA does clear a pathway for these products that have already hit store shelves and are out in the marketplace," Moran said. She said it's an "opportunity for industry to educate the FDA."

The FDA statement said three ingredients derived from hemp — hulled hemp seeds, hemp seed protein and hemp seed oil — are safe as foods and won't require additional approvals, as long as marketers do not make claims that they treat disease.

Hemp, like marijuana, already was legal in some states before Trump signed the farm bill. But now hemp farmers will be able to buy crop insurance, apply for loans and grants, and write off their business expenses on their taxes like any other farmer.□

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THE CAPITOL

Continued from Front

Senators who'd gleefully left town earlier this week thinking their year's work was done flew glumly back for votes they hoped would keep agencies from shutting at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. The usually laconic Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., left a meeting with GOP senators to eagerly show reporters a button that said, "Senate Cranky Coalition."

Virtually all senators, McConnell said, "are a part of this coalition. Yeah, almost unanimous agreement."

None traveled further for more fleeting gratification than Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz, who flew home to Hawaii, treated his Twitter followers to a selfie capturing part of his 17 minutes with his family, then zoomed back to Washington.

"Wheels down IAD ready to vote no on this stupid wall," he tweeted at dawn as his plane landed at Dulles International Airport outside Washington.

Another senator, Republican Mike Rounds, said he'd been home in South Dakota for four hours Thursday when he learned he'd need to head back to Washington. He was among several senators from both parties who said they left Washington after being given the impression that the House would approve a Senate-passed bill keeping government open and that Trump would sign it.

"We figured they would have a battle, show that they were not happy about it but would move forward," Rounds said.

House members were also in town Friday and lawmakers did not know when they'd be able to leave for Christmas and New Year's Day. As if symbolizing the Capitol's dampened holiday spirit, a worker was seen hauling away a Christmas tree, wrapped in plastic, in a blue recycling dumpster.

Friday afternoon, top administration officials met in the Capitol meeting with congressional leaders in hopes of resolving the standoff. To kill time, the Senate kept a procedural roll call vote open for more

than four hours. The House alternated between long recesses and votes on minor bills, including one renaming the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge in Florida as the Nathaniel P. Reed Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.

In this latest version of Congress' increasingly frequent shutdown showdowns, the sore spot was Trump's demand for \$5 billion in taxpayer money to start building a border wall he's repeatedly said Mexico would finance.

Aware of polls showing the wall and a shutdown over it are widely disliked except by loyal Trump supporters, Democrats had little reason to assent. A bill bearing those funds that would also keep agencies functioning into February was stalled.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., wrapped the shutdown standoff together with the plunging stock market, Trump's abrupt pullout of U.S. troops from Syria and the sudden resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

"This may have been the most chaotic week of what's undoubtedly the most chaotic presidency ever in the history of the United States," Schumer said.

Trump took ownership of the shutdown last week, proclaiming on live television that he'd be "proud" to close the government over his demands for the wall. But most congressional Republicans wanted to avoid a shutdown in the final days of their two-year lock on the White House and Congress. They were relieved earlier this week when Trump seemed to signal he'd sign a bill temporarily keeping government afloat without any wall money.

But after the Senate approved just such a bill, conservative pundits and hard-right House members rebelled. Trump reversed himself again and demanded the wall funds and threatened, "We're totally prepared for a very long shutdown."

That caused disgust, dissension and dismay among many on Capitol Hill. And that was just Republicans. "This is like a juvenile," said



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., center, walks back to his office as they work to pass a bill that would pay for President Donald Trump's border wall and avert a partial government shutdown, on Capitol Hill, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018 in Washington.

Associated Press

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., a frequent Trump critic who is retiring. "And the reason we're here again, is we have a couple of talk radio hosts that get the president spun up."

"I've never seen somebody more scared of their base than the president," said Rep. Ryan Costello, R-Pa., another Trump detractor who chose to not seek re-election.

Top Senate Republicans

journeyed to the White House Friday to figure out their next move. One GOP senator who didn't attend but spoke to some who did said the session left Trump's formula for success — well, a bit murky.

"Mostly nuclear option and the shutdown's acceptable to him would be the two takeaway points, I think," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. "And the wall matters and it will be beautiful when built.

So there were three take-away points." The nuclear option, by the way, is shorthand for changing rules in the narrowly divided Senate so Democrats couldn't kill legislation by forcing a bill to get 60 votes to pass. Changing those rules is opposed by many senior GOP senators and McConnell has said many times that he lacks the votes to do it, so it was never a real-world option for Trump.□

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Justice Ginsburg has surgery to remove cancerous growths

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had surgery Friday to remove two malignant growths in her left lung, the third time the Supreme Court's oldest justice has been treated for cancer since 1999.

Doctors found "no evidence of any remaining disease" and scans taken before the surgery showed no cancerous growths elsewhere in her body, the court said in a statement. No additional treatment is currently planned, it said.

The 85-year-old Ginsburg is the leader of the court's liberal wing. She has achieved an iconic status rare for Supreme Court justices, and is known as the Notorious RBG to some of her most ardent fans. In recent days, Ginsburg has basked in the warm applause of audiences that turned out for screenings



In this Nov. 30, 2018 file photo, Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, nominated by President Bill Clinton, sits with fellow Supreme Court justices for a group portrait at the Supreme Court Building in Washington, Friday.

Associated Press

of a new feature film about her life.

Her health is closely watched by liberals and conservatives alike. If she were to step down now, President Donald Trump would choose her replacement, and further shift the Supreme Court in a more

conservative direction.

The growths were found incidentally during tests Ginsburg had after she fractured ribs in a fall in her Supreme Court office on Nov. 7, the court said.

Doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York performed a

procedure called a pulmonary lobectomy on Ginsburg. The growths they removed were determined to be malignant in an initial pathology evaluation, the court said, citing Ginsburg's thoracic surgeon, Dr. Valerie W. Rusch.

Ginsburg is expected to remain in the hospital for a few days, the court said.

"If she doesn't need anything but the surgery, it is a very good sign," said Dr. John Lazar, director of thoracic robotic surgery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

It's not uncommon to see slow-growing lung cancers in women in their 80s, and they tend to respond well to surgery and go on to die of something unrelated, he said.

"This is just luck" that the growths were found through those rib X-rays because accidentally discovered lung tumors tend to be early-stage when

surgery works best, said Dr. Giuseppe Giaccone, an oncologist at Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. While doctors will have to see the final pathology report to know exactly what kind of tumors Ginsburg had and how aggressive they were, her previous bouts with cancer were so long ago they're unlikely to be related, Giaccone said.

Both doctors said patients typically spend three or four days in the hospital after this type of operation. It was unclear whether Ginsburg would be back on bench when the court next meets on Jan. 7. She has never missed Supreme Court arguments in more than 25 years as a justice.

She told an audience in New York last week at a screening of the movie "On the Basis of Sex" that she was about to resume her now-famous workout routine. □

*Celebrate the
Season of Giving*

Fiance accused of killing Colorado woman missing for month

By JAMES ANDERSON and MEAD GRUVER

DENVER (AP) — The fiance of a Colorado woman who has been missing since Thanksgiving Day was arrested Friday on allegations of killing the mother of his child, and police said she likely died at her house in a mountain town.

But authorities declined to say whether they had found the body of Kelsey Berreth, 29, what led to the arrest of Patrick Michael Frazee and what motive there might be for Berreth's disappearance and slaying.

Frazee, 32, was arrested at his home in the alpine town of Florissant on suspicion of murder and solicitation of murder, said Miles de Young, chief of police in neighboring Woodland Park, where Berreth lived.

"As you can tell from the arrest, sadly, we do not believe that Kelsey is still alive," De Young said.

Authorities also declined to elaborate on the solicitation of murder charge, how they believe Berreth was killed or other aspects of the investigation, which spans several states and involves the FBI.

Frazee was appointed a public defender, Adam Steigerwald, at a court hearing Friday, but the attorney didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment. Jeremy Loew, a private lawyer who had represented him, previously said Frazee cooperated with investigators and provided DNA samples.

Police have said Frazee was the last person to see Berreth alive. The couple shared a baby daughter but didn't live together. Her mother has said financial struggles delayed them from moving in together but that her daughter was excited to get married.

The disappearance of the young pilot mystified family and friends and led to a social media push for information on her whereabouts.

Berreth was last seen at a grocery store near her home. Surveillance video showed her walking in on

Thanksgiving Day with what appears to be the couple's daughter in a baby carrier. Frazee had told police that they met that afternoon so he could pick up the child. De Young said the girl is in protective custody and will be turned over to Berreth's family.

Authorities searched Frazee's cattle ranch and Berreth's townhome but declined to say what they found. De Young did say evidence suggests "the crime" occurred at Berreth's home and that her cellphone was found in Idaho. Investigators were working to recover the phone, which is an important clue.

Police said the only signs of Berreth after Thanksgiving were some text messages and that location data suggested the phone by Nov. 25 was near Gooding, Idaho, 800 miles (1,290 kilometers) from her house.

Her mother, Cheryl, lives in Laclede, Idaho, 580 miles (930 kilometers) north of Gooding, but police have not explained whether that has any significance in where the cellphone was discovered.

Police started looking for Kelsey Berreth on Dec. 2 at her mother's request.

Investigators who went to Berreth's house found cinnamon rolls in the kitchen and both of her cars outside. De Young said the company where Berreth worked as a flight instructor, Doss Aviation, had accounted for all their planes and that police had no reason to believe she used someone else's plane.

Cheryl Berreth told NBC News that her daughter's relationship with Frazee had been good and loving. She said the couple had weathered some financial struggles. Frazee runs a cattle ranch, and prices for the industry have been poor, delaying their plans to find a house together, Cheryl Berreth said. "They had plans that haven't worked out as they would have liked. But they've dealt with that and they've made things work regardless," she said. □



In this Dec. 13, 2018 file photo, community members hold a candlelight vigil for Kelsey Berreth under the gazebo of Memorial Park in Woodland Park, Colo.

Associated Press

Santa Menu

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Appetizer

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or
- Lychee Ceviche**
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or
- Christmas Ayaka**
Traditional Aruban holiday dish made of banana leaves stuffed with corn meal, pulled chicken, olives, plum, raisins, silver onion and cashew
or
- Carpaccio**
Thinly sliced filet Mignon with arugula, pesto and parmesan shavings

Main Course

- Turkey & Christmas Ham Roulade**
Stuffed with honey cured Christmas ham, melted cheese, spinach and red cabbage, served with skin on mashed potatoes and cranberry gravy sauce
or
- Steak Oscar**
A different kind of Surf & Turf, 5 oz filet Mignon with generous crab cake topped with bearnaise sauce, served with grilled asparagus and skin on mashed potatoes
or
- Bon Pasco Seafood Casserole**
Fish, shrimp, mussels and calamari simmered in white wine beurre blanc sauce served with broccoli on a bed of pasta Castellane and melted cheese

Dessert

- Dark Chocolate Peppermint Cake**
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- Passion Mousse**
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- Bombe Alaska Cake**
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- Warm Cinnamon Apple Strudel**
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No U.S. charges against Chinese billionaire in alleged assault



In this file photo taken Thursday, May 22, 2014, Liu Qiangdong, also known as Richard Liu, CEO of JD.com, raises his arms to celebrate the IPO for his company at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York.

Associated Press

By AMY FORLITI and JEFF BAENEN

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Chinese billionaire Richard Liu will not face charges over a rape accusation by a Chinese woman studying in Minnesota because prosecutors said Friday they could not prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Liu, founder of the Beijing-based e-commerce site JD.com, was arrested Aug. 31 in Minneapolis on suspicion of felony rape and released within hours. He returned to China.

Prosecutors said that "profound evidentiary problems" would have made it "highly unlikely" that any charge could have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

In a statement, Hennepin

County Attorney Mike Freeman said that as prosecutors reviewed surveillance video, text messages, police body camera video and witness statements, "it became clear that we could not meet our burden of proof and, therefore, we could not bring charges." After the prosecutor's decision was announced, Liu issued a statement on his Chinese social media account saying, "This proves I broke no law."

"My interactions with this woman, however, have hurt my family greatly, especially my wife. I feel deep regret and remorse and I hope she can accept my sincere apology. I will continue to try in every possible way to repair the impact on my family and to fulfill my responsibility as

a husband," Liu said in his statement, which JD.com shared in a translation he provided.

He said he did not respond to comments on the internet while the investigation was ongoing to avoid interfering with police and prosecutors.

Liu was in Minneapolis in August for a weeklong residency as part of the University of Minnesota's doctor of business administration China program. The four-year program in the university's management school is geared toward high-level executives in China and is a partnership with Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management. Jill Brisbois, an attorney for Liu, said his attorneys welcome the prosecutor's decision.

"This confirms our strong belief from the very beginning that my client is innocent," Brisbois said in a statement. He said Liu was arrested "based on a false claim," and that the investigation, "with which he fully cooperated," vindicates him.

"Even though the prosecutor determined no criminal charges were warranted, Mr. Liu's reputation has been damaged like anyone falsely accused of a crime," Brisbois said.

Wil Florin, an attorney for the woman, said prosecutors never spoke to her before deciding not to charge Liu.

Florin said prosecutors never asked to meet with the woman, a Chinese citizen studying at the University of Minnesota on a student

visa, and never asked her a question.

"Instead, they waited 4 months until late Friday before the Christmas holiday and issued a press release without even giving her the common courtesy of a meeting to advise her of their intentions," Florin said. Minneapolis Police Department spokesman John Elder said, however, that police had spoken with the woman "a number of times."

The woman has not been publicly identified. She is still enrolled at the university, Florin said.

On the night of the alleged attack, Liu and other executives went to Origami, a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis. The woman went to the dinner as a volunteer, Florin said. She felt coerced to drink as the powerful men toasted her, he said.

Text messages reviewed by The Associated Press and portions of the woman's interviews with police show the woman claims Liu dragged her into a vehicle and made advances, despite her protests. The woman texted a friend: "I begged him don't. But he didn't listen." She said he raped her at her apartment.

Liu, known in Chinese as Liu Qiangdong, is a prominent member of the Chinese tech elite, with a fortune of \$7.5 billion. He is part of a generation of entrepreneurs who have created China's internet, e-commerce, mobile phone and other technology industries

since the late 1990s. The son of peasants, Liu built a Beijing electronics shop into JD.com, China's biggest online direct retailer, selling everything from clothes to toys to fresh vegetables. He has continued to lead the company since his arrest.

The announcement on Liu comes at a time of heightened tensions between the U.S. and China over trade and the arrest of another prominent Chinese tech executive.

China reacted angrily after Canadian authorities, at the behest of the U.S., arrested Huawei Technologies' Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou in Vancouver on Dec. 1.

The U.S. reportedly wants her extradited to face allegations the company evaded U.S. sanctions on Iran. Huawei is China's first global tech competitor, making it politically important to a ruling Communist Party. But the U.S. government believes that doing business with Huawei is a national security risk.

On the same day the Huawei executive was arrested, President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to a 90-day truce in their trade war while officials try to negotiate an agreement. China retaliated against U.S. imports such as soybeans after Trump imposed tariffs on billions of dollars in Chinese goods. The dispute has roiled stock markets and raised concern that it could hurt the global economy.



In this March 11, 2004 file photo, Audrey Geisel, widow of famed children's book author Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, poses with The Cat in the Hat, foreground, and Thing 1 and Thing 2, who are characters from his books, at the dedication of Dr. Seuss' posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Audrey Geisel, widow and promoter of Dr. Seuss, dies

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As Dr. Seuss neared the end of his life, the children's author told his wife that she would have to look after the Cat in the Hat, the Lorax, the Grinch and all the beloved characters he created. It was a mission Audrey Geisel embraced for more than a quarter-century. As overseer of Dr. Seuss' prolific and lucrative literary estate, she carefully guarded the whimsical works of the writer and illustrator less known as Theodor Geisel and expanded the Seuss legacy. She promoted a highly profitable multimedia brand, from books and films to theme park rides and the Broadway show "Seussical."

Audrey Geisel, 97, died Wednesday at her home in the La Jolla section of San Diego, Random House Children's Books announced. Geisel, who founded Dr. Seuss Enterprises, said she took to heart the responsibility her husband left her when he died in 1991.

"You keep a firm control as if they really were your children," Geisel told The Associated Press in 1998. "I don't want the Cat in a bad part of town, so to speak."

But she went far beyond keeping a tight grip on the empire. She broadly expanded it beyond what her husband cared to do while creating his 47 children's stories.

And, oh, the places she went with it.

More than 10 million Dr. Seuss books sell each year and new works are coming out, such as last spring's "Dr. Seuss's First 100 words," according to Random House. The 2000 live-action film version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," starring Jim Carrey, was a box-office smash. But Audrey Geisel and critics despised the 2003 live-action adaptation of "The Cat in the Hat" that starred Mike Myers of "Austin Powers" fame.

"I never saw 'Austin Powers,' but I knew 'Yeah, baby!' and I didn't want 'Yeah, baby!' at all," she told the AP in 2004.

Geisel is credited as executive producer of the animated film "The Grinch," which was released last month and tapped Benedict Cumberbatch to voice the title character.

A poll of favorite holiday songs and films or television conducted by AP-NORC earlier this month put "The Grinch" just behind "It's a Wonderful Life." It didn't specify if it was the Carrey version or the animated 1966 classic produced by Chuck Jones and narrated by Boris Karloff.

Geisel was a Chicago native and former nursing student at Indiana University. She and Theodor Geisel, who was 17 years older, were both married to other people when they began an affair in the 1960s. His first wife, Helen, killed herself.

Audrey Geisel sent the two daughters she had with her first husband to boarding school after the Geisels married in 1968. The couple had no children together — Seuss was not particularly fond of kids, she said. □

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Dancing FBI agent who shot man at Denver bar pleads guilty

DENVER (AP) — A dancing FBI agent who accidentally shot a man in the leg after doing a backflip at a Denver bar will avoid jail time after pleading guilty Friday to third-degree assault. Chase Bishop, 30, struck a plea deal with prosecutors and was sentenced to two years of probation, The Denver Post reported. He also must pay more than \$1,600 in fines and court costs.

Footage of the June 2 shooting at Mile High Spirits and Distillery shows Bishop dancing in the middle of a circle of people before doing the backflip. The gun falls to the ground mid-flip and discharges as Bishop picks it up. The agent then puts the gun into a waistband holster and walks away with his hands up.

"My whole goal in life is to care, protect and serve people," Bishop said in court Friday. "I never expected the result of my actions to lead to something like this."

He pleaded not guilty in November to second-degree assault, which carries a penalty of up to 16 years in prison.

Bishop, who will serve his probation in Georgia, was in Denver on FBI business and was off-duty at the time of the shooting. FBI spokeswoman Kelsey Pi-



This undated file photo provided by the Denver Police Department shows Chase Bishop, an off-duty FBI agent who accidentally shot a man in the leg after doing a backflip while dancing at a Denver bar.

Associated Press

erantron declined to say if he would continue to work at the agency.

The man who was shot, Tom Reddington, 24, spoke emotionally in court about how he lost his job at an Amazon warehouse after the shooting, his chronic pain and his concern that he may never be able to run again.

"I have done months of physical therapy," he said.

"I have sought counseling. However, being in public, especially seeing law enforcement with guns, makes me very uncomfortable." Reddington added that he does not hold a personal grudge against Bishop. "I've done stupid things at bars to impress girls, too," he said. □

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Dutch convoy sets off for Greece, hoping to help migrants

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)

— A bus and a fleet of cars have set off from the Netherlands in a continent-crossing convoy to raise awareness of the plight of migrants languishing in overcrowded Greek island camps and maybe even bring some of them back to the Netherlands.

The Dutch group "Let's Bring Them Here" wants to pick up 150 migrants and drive them to the Netherlands.

Organizers, who say they have written to Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras asking him to help, concede their chances of success are slim. They won't bring back any migrants unless Greek authorities let them.

"It's Christmas, so let's believe in miracles," said Rikko Voorberg, who helped organize the convoy.

The group suffered an early setback when the bus broke down not long after setting off. The organization tweeted that it was driving



In this Friday, May 4, 2018 file photo, migrants and refugees wait outside the European Asylum Support Service offices inside the camp of Moria on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece.

Associated Press

to a garage for repairs before continuing its journey. According to the Greek government, more than 14,500 migrants are stuck on islands in the eastern Aegean Sea, where official camps and other ac-

commodations have room for under 9,000. Conditions at the camps have been heavily criticized by aid groups.

The Dutch government says it has contributed to an EU program of relocat-

ing migrants from Greece and Italy and is warning that any attempt to bring some of them to the Netherlands could be seen as people smuggling.

"Illegal transport of people without a right of residence

would amount to smuggling and is punishable," Migration Minister Mark Harbers told The Associated Press. "Not only in the Netherlands, but also in the countries" the group has to drive through.

Voorberg stressed that his group isn't planning to smuggle anybody and will only bring back migrants if they are granted papers by Greece. About 25 cars and the bus left the central Dutch city of Utrecht on Friday, hoping to arrive in Athens by Dec. 24.

The action is the latest example of Dutch citizens coming to the aid of migrants.

At home, a rotating cast of visiting ministers has been running a non-stop church service since Oct. 26 at a small church in The Hague to prevent the deportation of an Armenian family of five whose asylum application has been rejected. Under Dutch law, officials can't enter a church while a service is underway. □

Canadian judge denies Omar Khadr eased bail conditions

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— A Canadian judge on Friday denied former Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr's request for relaxed bail conditions and a Canadian passport. Justice June Ross ruled there's no evidence of hardship or conditions that are needlessly onerous.

The Canadian-born Khadr was 15 when he was captured by U.S. troops after

a firefight at a suspected al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan that resulted in the death of U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Christopher Speer. Khadr was suspected of throwing the grenade that killed Speer. He pleaded guilty in 2010 to charges that included murder and was sentenced to eight years plus the decade he had already spent in custody at the American prison.

He returned to Canada from Guantanamo Bay two years later to serve the remainder of his sentence and was released in May 2015 pending an appeal of his guilty plea, which he said was made under duress.

Khadr's lawyer had argued that it wasn't fair that his client's life remains restricted by a stalled U.S. court process that has no end in sight.

Khadr, who is now 32, wanted unsupervised conversations with his sister and a Canadian passport so that he could make a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Khadr also wanted to be able to travel to Toronto without the approval of his bail supervisor to visit his family more easily and to make court appearances related to a civil lawsuit he faces. Khadr does not know

how long his bail conditions are in effect.

He was paid \$8 million by Canada's government last year under a court ruling that his rights were violated while he was locked up at Guantanamo.

News of the multimillion-dollar payout to Khadr, whose case received international attention after some dubbed him a child soldier, angered many who considered him a terrorist. □



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End of an era: Germany closes its last black coal mine

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Straining to hold back tears, their once-white helmets and overalls smeared with dust, seven miners in Germany stepped out of a metal cage Friday bearing the last piece of black coal hauled up from 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) below.

The ceremony marked the end of an industry that laid the foundations for Germany's industrial revolution and its post-war economic recovery.

The men at the Prosper-Haniel mine symbolically handed the football-sized lump of coal to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier with the words "Glueck Auf." The ancient miners' greeting roughly translates as "good luck," reflecting the uncertainty of a life spent prospecting deep underground.

"A piece of German history is coming to an end here," Steinmeier told the miners. "Without it, our entire country and its development over the past 200 years would have been unthinkable."

The Prosper-Haniel mine in the western city of Bottrop and another colliery in Ibbenbueren, 100 kilometers (62 miles) to the north, were the last remnants of an industry that once dominated the region, employing half a million people at its peak in the 1950s. Together, they helped feed the Ruhr valley's hungry steel mills until imports of cheaper, foreign coal made Germany's "black gold" lose its sheen.

For decades, the mines survived only thanks to generous subsidies. But in 2007, a political decision was made to phase them out, with a promise of early retirement or retraining for

their remaining workers.

According to government figures, Germany's coal mining industry received more than 40 billion euros (\$46 billion) in federal funds since 1998 and is slated to get another 2.7 billion euros through 2022. Some of the money is needed to deal with mine maintenance and environmental cleanup efforts that include preventing parts of the Ruhr region from slowly sinking as myriad tunnels give way over time.

Further vast sums have been spent supporting economic redevelopment in the region, which has seen a growth in universities, research facilities and IT start-ups in recent years. Steinmeier urged the miners and their loved ones to look to the future, but also to take pride in a culture of hospitality and openness. The Ruhr region became a melting pot with the arrival since the 19th century of successive waves of immigrants, from Poland, Italy and Turkey, in search of well-paid work down the mines.

The end of deep-shaft mining is seen as a test for the planned closure of open-cast lignite, or brown coal, mines that still operate in Germany.

Germany still generates almost two-fifths of its electricity from burning coal, a situation that scientists say can't continue if Germany wants to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Lignite is considered even dirtier than black coal but remains relatively cheap to extract, even in Germany.

More than 400 coal mining regions around the world will face similar pressures to shut down in the coming decades amid international efforts to curb global warming.

Some in Germany fear that other sources of energy — chiefly renewables — may not be sufficient to power an industrial nation, especially as the country also plans to shut down its nuclear plants by 2022.

A government-appointed panel is due to deliver a report in February laying out proposals for the gradual phasing out of lignite mines. □



Miners hold the last lump of coal during a closing ceremony of the last German coal mine Prosper-Haniel in Bottrop, Germany, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

Associated Press

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Israeli army says Palestinian killed at West Bank roadblock

By ISABEL DEBRE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military on Friday confirmed shooting a Palestinian car passenger dead in the West Bank, while a second Palestinian teenager was killed in a weekly border demonstration in the

Gaza Strip.

The army said it opened fire on the car after it broke through a West Bank checkpoint. The military said it was on high alert in the area after shots were fired from a Palestinian village late Thursday. It said soldiers fired warning shots

in the air when the driver ignored orders to halt but car sped up instead. The army said it responded with live fire, killing one passenger. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the dead passenger as Qasim Abbasi, 17, from east Jerusalem. His cousin, Mohammed Ab-

basi, told The Associated Press that he, Qasim, and a friend were driving out of the Palestinian city of Ramallah when an Israeli soldier told them the road was closed. Abbasi said when they tried to make a U-turn, a soldier fired at their car, shattering the rear window

and striking Qasim in the back.

Abbasi said he and his friend, who was driving, were not injured. He said they were released after being interrogated by police.

The West Bank saw a spike in violence last week after a pair of deadly shootings targeting Israeli soldiers and settlers. The army has arrested scores of Hamas activists as it ratchets up its manhunt for a Palestinian assailant.

Meanwhile in Gaza, health officials said that Israeli gunfire killed a 16-year-old Palestinian during a weekly protest in east Gaza City near the Israeli border.

Mohammed Jahjouh was shot in the neck, Gaza's health ministry said, adding that 70 other protesters were wounded.

In the evening, the ministry announced that two more Palestinians, aged 28 and 40, died of wounds they sustained earlier in the day. It said they were shot by Israeli live fire.

Since March, thousands of Palestinians have protested along the perimeter fence separating the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip from Israel. The demonstrations have been staged by the territory's Hamas rulers against a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade.

More than 175 Palestinians either protesting or present at the rallies were killed, including 28 minors, according to the health ministry and a local rights group. An Israeli soldier was killed in July. □



ENGLISH:

Kimberly-Clark is voluntarily recalling approximately 135 cases of U by Kotex® Sleek® Tampons, Regular Absorbency, which were sold and shipped to Aruba, for a quality-related defect that could impact the performance of this product. The Company had previously announced the recall of that product sold throughout the United States and Canada.

The recall is limited to specific lots of U by Kotex® Sleek® Tampons, Regular Absorbency, that were manufactured between October 7, 2016 and October 16, 2018 and distributed between October 17, 2016 and October 23, 2018. In the case of Aruba, the affected lot is only number 102945307. Consumers can identify this product by looking for specific lot numbers found on the bottom of the package. A full list of recalled lot numbers is available on the [U by Kotex® website](#). Retailers have been alerted to remove the recalled lot numbers from shelves and post a notification in their stores.

No other U by Kotex-branded products are subject to this recall.

Kimberly-Clark has received reports from consumers of the U by Kotex® Sleek® Tampons, Regular Absorbency, unraveling and/or coming apart upon removal, and in some cases causing users to seek medical attention to remove tampon pieces left in the body. There also have been a small number of reports of infections, vaginal irritation, localized vaginal injury, and other symptoms.

Any consumer with the impacted U by Kotex® Sleek® Tampons, Regular Absorbency, in their possession should stop using the product immediately and promptly contact Kimberly-Clark's Consumer Service team at 1-888-255-3499 between 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, for information regarding this recall. Consumers who experience vaginal injury (pain, bleeding, or discomfort), vaginal irritation (itching or swelling), urogenital infections (bladder and/or vaginal bacterial and/or yeast infections), or other symptoms such as hot flashes, abdominal pain, nausea, or vomiting following use of the impacted product should seek immediate medical attention.

U.S. health care professionals and consumers may report adverse reactions or quality problems they may experience using these devices to [MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program](#) either online, by regular mail or by facsimile to 1-800-FDA-0178.





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Indonesia gains majority ownership of giant Freeport mine

By NINIEK KARMINI

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesia finalized the transfer of majority control over a giant gold and copper mine from U.S. company Freeport-McMoRan, the government said Friday, in a long-awaited deal that boosts the president's re-election campaign.

The Phoenix, Arizona-based Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. initially owned about 90 percent of the Grasberg mine since it began operating in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua in 1973. The rest has been owned by the Indonesian government.

"Today is a historic moment," President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo told a



In this Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018 file photo, Indonesian President Joko Widodo gives a lecture to students at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

news conference at the presidential palace in the capital, Jakarta, attended by related ministers of his cabinet and Freeport-McMoRan chief executive Richard Adkerson.

"We will use this major-

ity ownership entirely for people's prosperity. Our income in tax, revenues and royalties will be bigger and better," Widodo said.

The landmark deal worth \$3.85 billion to take over a 51.2 percent stake in PT

Freeport Indonesia from the U.S. company was paid by state-owned PT Inalum mining company after environmental and smelting issues were settled, Widodo said.

The two sides had been on a collision course since a presidential regulation in 2012 imposed a limit of 49 percent on foreign ownership of companies issued new mining licenses. Foreign investors with ownership greater than 49 percent were required to sell shares to state-owned enterprises or privately owned Indonesian companies.

The mine in Papua, where a separatist movement simmers, has been the target of protests by Papuans who resent the region's mineral

wealth being exploited by the U.S. and Indonesia.

Widodo said people in Papua will also get 10 percent of ownership and regional taxes as well.

Apart from reduced ownership, Adkerson said the new permit given to Freeport Indonesia, which is valid until 2031, would give the company clarity over its operation in the country up to 2041 as the company could apply for a 10-year extension within five years before it expires.

He also said that Freeport agreed to convert its original agreement signed with the government of former dictator Suharto in 1991 to a new mining license. The original agreement expires in 2021. □

India, China discuss enhancing academic exchanges, tourism

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The

foreign ministers of India and China on Friday discussed steps to deepen ties through academic exchanges and tourism even as they vie for influence with their smaller neighbors. Sushma Swaraj and Wang Yi at their meeting in New Delhi took up enhancing cooperation in tourism, art, film, media, culture, yoga, sports, academic and youth exchanges, according to a tweet from India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar.

"As our relations are deepening and our regional and international role evolving, there are expectations

from our two countries to lead Asia and usher in an 'Asian Century,'" Swaraj said in a message ahead of a meeting of the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Wang attended the inaugural meeting of a forum that is part of a cultural exchange program set up by the two countries in April. A series of recent India-China meetings have eased tensions along their contested border after last year's 10-week standoff in the neighboring state of Bhutan. The countries fought a border war in 1962 over a disputed border.

Swaraj said Friday the armies of the two coun-

tries were making efforts to strengthen contacts to promote peace and tranquility in the border areas.

New Delhi has been keenly watching China's moves to build strategic and economic ties with Indian Ocean nations including Sri Lanka, the Maldives and India's longtime rival Pakistan.

China claims some territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies part of its territory on the Aksai Chin Plateau in the western Himalayas. At least 20 meetings to discuss the competing border claims have not made significant progress.

China also resents India's hosting of the exiled Tibet-



Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, right, and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi attend the inaugural session of the India-China High Level Media Forum in New Delhi, India, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

Associated Press

an spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in

1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule. □

Mexico appears willing but unready to hold US refugees

By MARKO ALVAREZ

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) —

Mexico's willingness to accept U.S. asylum seekers while their applications are processed appears to be yet another sign of the blooming honeymoon between leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and President Donald Trump, though it is also causing concern among officials in Mexican border cities already struggling to deal with thousands of Central American migrants. Mexico could have simply refused, as it historically has, to accept the return of non-Mexicans. But this week's announcement of \$10.6 billion in U.S. development aid and the personal relationship between the two presidents appeared to smooth the path. It is the same relationship that helped resolve stalled negotiations on Mexico's free trade agreement with the United States and Canada.

"Right now it's a honeymoon, in part because even though one is on the left and the other is more to the right, they have things in common — protectionism, the anti-establishment thing, each one's nationalism," said Jose Antonio Crespo, a political analyst at Mexico's Center for Economic Research and Training.

Crespo noted Trump was getting along better with



Breakfast of rice, beans and tortilla chips is prepared for Honduran migrants inside an empty warehouse that opened its doors to migrants in downtown Tijuana, Mexico, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

Lopez Obrador than with his conservative predecessor, Enrique Pena Nieto. "Up to now it's been a honeymoon, who knows how long it will last."

Mexico, meanwhile, is struggling to say how it will house and protect what could become tens of thousands of Central American migrants who might wind up in its cities along the border with the United States. It is clearly not ready to shelter so many.

Tonatiuh Guillen, the head of Mexico's immigration agency, said, "In the short term, the National Immigration Institute does not have the organizational capacity to

operate this kind of program ... the current legislation also doesn't help us."

Mexico is already hosting thousands of Central Americans who arrived as part of a migrant caravan in November.

Those migrants were dismayed by Thursday's announcement.

"This is bad, because every country has its sovereignty, it doesn't have to depend on another country," said Luis Miguel Conde, a Guatemalan who travelled to Tijuana with his wife and two children to request asylum in the U.S. "When you apply for asylum in Mexico, they don't send you to Guate-

mala to wait. You wait for your application within the country's territory."

Tijuana is currently the most popular crossing point for asylum seekers waiting to submit claims in the United States, but the border city is already weary of housing over 7,000 migrants who arrived in the caravan in November.

The city's police staged a raid before dawn Thursday to clear dozens of migrants who had resisted moving to a shelter farther from the border and camped out on a downtown street a few blocks from the border. Riot police loaded about 120 people onto buses to

take them to the Barretal shelter, located about 14 miles (22 kilometers) from the San Ysidro border crossing. Officers arrested two dozen who refused to relocate.

"We did have to detain 24 people who refused to leave the street, and we found some who were doing illegal drugs," Police Chief Marco Sotomayor said.

Cesar Palencia, director of migrant affairs for the city government, reacted with surprise to Thursday's announcement by the federal government on housing asylum seekers.

"How would it be done? For how long? How many people? We don't know what the strategy or the plan is, nor have any studies been done," Palencia told The Associated Press.

"We respect the federal government's decision, but we would ask that it be accompanied by personnel, funding and a strategy."

The assistant legal counsel for Mexico's foreign relations department, Alejandro Celorio, said that there will not be any detention centers for migrants. "They will not be detained," he said.

But Celorio did not say whether shelters, like the former Barretal concert venue in Tijuana, would be built, expanded or made more permanent — and whose money would be used to pay for such shelters.

The only strategy Mexico's federal government has launched so far is a TV and radio "campaign against xenophobia" announced Thursday to combat suspicion and dislike of migrants. "Migrants are not a threat, this is not an invasion," said Alexandra Haas, the head of Mexico's anti-discrimination agency.

The most outraged reaction came from U.S. immigration activists, but reaction on the Mexican side was muted, in part because Lopez Obrador's administration was apparently successful in depicting the decision as a humanitarian measure to protect migrants. □

Police raid offices of lawyer of alleged Bolsonaro attacker



In this Dec. 5, 2018 file photo, Brazil's President-elect Jair Bolsonaro listens to a question during a press interview, in Brasilia, Brazil.

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's federal police are raiding the offices of a lawyer representing a man who allegedly stabbed President-elect Jair Bolsonaro.

Authorities told Brazilian newspaper O Globo on Friday that two warrants are being served at offices tied to lawyer Zanone Manuel de Oliveira Jr. in the Belo Horizonte area in Minas Gerais state.

They also said they are looking at security camera footage and electronics for details about who is financing the defense of Adelio Bispo.

Bispo has been held in police custody since Sept. 6 when he was accused of stabbing Bolsonaro in the torso, piercing his intestine.

Bolsonaro went on to win Brazil's presidential election and is to take office Jan. 1.

Police said that Bispo's motivation at the time of the incident appeared to be political. □

Associated Press

LOCAL



**You Can Help adding some Happiness:
Shop for Parenting**



Corina Linssen is Coordinator of Tienda di Educacion, meaning Parenting Shop. This foundation is actually a help line for parents. "Most probably you have heard about the help line for children 131, but this is for the other line: the parents themselves, available for free by dialing 161. Monday to Fridays from 8 AM to 9 PM parents can call us without charge and can visit us here at the office for consults between 8 AM and 6 PM."

The foundation_ that has now been in existence for 5 years_ not only gives individual support to parents, but also organizes group sessions and workshops for mothers, fathers and other caretakers. Corina: "The church, the work place, the school, the child care, the sport club, just name it and we go there. Practically all places where parents come together have our attention." The topics the Parenting Shop discusses are broad: In what way I consult my children? How do I discuss values and norms? What about sexual education? How do I guide my child with regards to social media? How do I prevent that my personal stress as a parent reflects on my child? How do I guide my child in case of bullying?" Often the topics are adapted to the kind of group we have in front of us, depending on their kid's ages also. Besides me, my colleagues Noemy Haddocks and Nicole Kock, both Parenting Consultants, make up for the team."

This page is sponsored by:



Bad Listening

The most important issue the Parenting Shop encounters is the parent complaining that the child won't listen. Every parent at some point will recognize this, but it is the most significant red line through all problems. "Communication is the golden key. Especially during puberty. Children are more assertive, parents have difficulties with the change in behavior and listening is the main issue of parents in many cases. Also there is the cultural asset, in the Caribbean it is common thought that what the parent says rules." Regularly the foundation hears parents admitting that they beat their kid out of impotence. The second significant struggle is the lack of structure within the education. "We teach parents to be consequent and build in a routine that gives peace and rest to parent and child. The younger child benefits strongly by a schedule and overview and the parent needs to guide in this matter."

Role Pattern

From the children's point of view, Tienda di Educacion hears issues like experimenting with drugs, relationships, school problems and communication between parents especially with divorced parents. The parents of the group children in the age of 10 years and up is mostly represented. Corina: "The age of the parents is variable, but we see that mostly mothers call for help. It has to do with the role pattern that mothers overall take care of the education, not always though

because of lack of interest of the fathers. The mother many times takes this role upon herself and does not give the space to the father to reach out."

Yearly the foundation receives about 350 phone calls, different callers by the way. In the office they have approximately 200 sessions with parents. The lectures reach 800 to 1000 parents. The demand for help is stable, but they see that each year other parents call thus you can see we establish a growth in

reach. "Teenage mothers is a special group that requires more sessions and attention. We offer a separate program for this group also.

The last years we notice that luckily this group is declining, but we do see that the teenage mothers get younger, from 13-14 years onwards."

The foundation would like to make more use of social media to educate the group of parents. Your contribution and help is more than welcome in this matter. □

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Experience Aruba's Christmas Spirit



ORANJESTAD — Winter Wonderland is a magical world created at the Renaissance Marketplace. From December 1st – December 23rd the Marketplace is transformed into a Christmas Market. With daily live musical entertainment, an ice skating court and meet & greet with Santa Claus and his elves. The village offers seasonal delights for everyone. This daily event is from 6pm – 10pm.

Jody-Lynn Desbarida is the Shopping Centers Marketing Coordinator and gladly explains what we are going to experience with Winter Wonderland. "Winter Wonderland is a nice get away for adults and children. The main reason of Winter Wonderland is to bring people together, entertain them and bring them into the Christmas spirit. Besides that it is a great option for the community and visitors to meet



and connect." For the little ones they offer the ice skating court to enjoy, the ginger cookie decoration class and the painting lessons Christmas theme, all for age four and up. There is a fun Dino jump, welcome to children from three years old. "And also important: We have free parking around the whole property."

That is Winter Wonderland!

This is the second year of Winter Wonderland with different cottages, more live entertainment, better decoration, better ambiance and vibes. "And best of it all: All proceeds of the ice skating court go to charity (Mary Joan Foundation and Stichting BOB), so you do help a little too!" Christmas to Jody is being together with her family, the ones you love the most. It is also about having fun, thinking about life and of course about food. "Christmas should be about giving, giving the best of you to everyone around you. I wish for everybody the best that a holiday could offer; peace, joy and love to you and your family." □





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'Slow Down, Buy Local' at the Cadushi Festival

ORANJESTAD — The Cadushi festival is one of its kind. It is all about inspiring and connecting people by presenting local small business, farmers, artists and creators of all kinds in a dynamic ambiance. You are most welcome tomorrow at the heart of Oranjestad between 5 and 11 PM.

The Cadushi Festival's mission is to create awareness in regard to mindful living and to provide local creatives with a space to showcase and share their (art) work. They love to inspire and connect people of all walks of life who seek enrichment of their lives on a physical, mental and spiritual level.

The principles to build their festival are:

1. Slow Down – returning to our natural ways: as a way to balance out the tendency to make everything faster (fast food, fast living etc), living more consciously and mindfully
2. Buy Local – supporting our local artistic, creative & entrepreneurial community in the most direct way possible, and encouraging new and unique initiatives
3. Connect – creating a positive and nourishing place to gather and connect, for our visitors to feel a sense of joy and community and to leave feeling inspired, energized, and empowered!

There will be local gourmet tasting by chef Urvin Croes, a kids corner, tarot reading, local craft arts, jewelry, clothing, music, food and drinks but for all: a terrific local ambiance!

More information: Facebook Cadushi festival or <https://cadushifestival.com>. □

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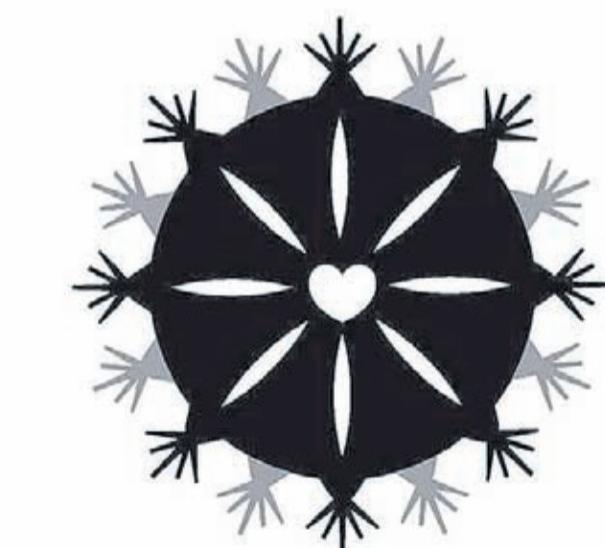
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Enjoy Bugaloe's Christmas Celebrations with Live Entertainment!

PALM BEACH — Merry Christmas from Bugaloe! Come celebrate the holidays at the best beach bar on the island. On Monday, December 24th, and Tuesday, December 25th, Bugaloe will be hosting special Christmas events for everyone to enjoy.

On December 24th, join Bugaloe's Christmas Dinner show with great food, amazing drinks, sunset views, and lots of music! At 7pm the Bugaloe Entertainers will perform, dance, and sing your favorite Christmas tunes as well as top 40 hits. Bring your dancing shoes and get ready to swing, boogie, and move your feet!

On Christmas Day, December 25th, Bugaloe will have live music from the Joyride Band starting at 7pm. Bugaloe will have their regular Happy Hours with live entertainment from 5-6pm, and again from 10-11pm.



Come down to celebrate the holidays in style!

Bugaloe is located on the De Palm Pier between the RIU Hotel and the Hilton Resort. For more information or to make a reservation, email info@bugaloe.com or call 00297-586-2233.

Celebrate this Christmas at Bugaloe!

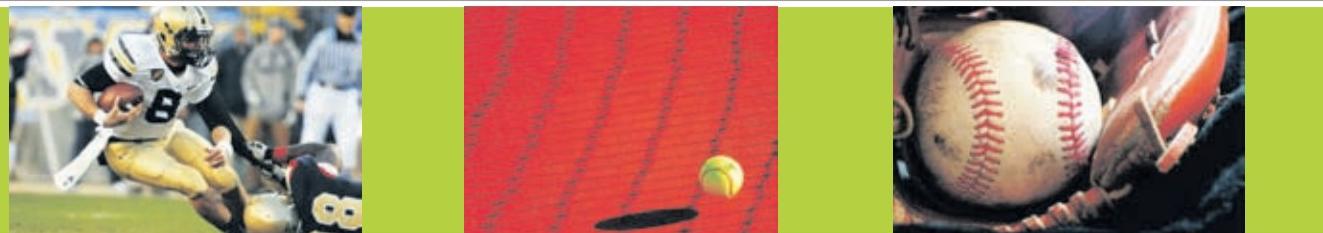
Enjoy an epic New Years' Eve at Bugaloe Beach Bar! Are you ready to ring in the New Year at the best beach bar on the island? There's no better way to say goodbye to 2018 and

live entertainment, drink specials, and more!

The Travel Sessions Band and the Bugaloe Entertainers will be performing live, starting at 10pm until 3am, so you can spend the last night of 2018 dancing your cares away. Bugaloe has a 360° view of all the hotels' fireworks shows and will be providing a complimentary New Year's champagne toast, as well as Dutch Oliebollen!

Are you ready to join the best beach party on the island? Entrance is free, so come see us at Bugaloe this year for a night you won't forget! Bugaloe is located on the De Palm Pier between the RIU Hotel and the Hilton Resort. On January 1st Bugaloe will open at 10:30am, and will be open until midnight. For more information visit www.bugaloe.com or mail to info@bugaloe.com. □

SPORTS



Dodgers send Puig, Wood to Reds for Homer Bailey

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers had a surplus of outfielders. With one attention-getting deal, they reshaped their roster in hopes of another pennant run.

The reigning NL champions shook up their lineup on Friday, trading Yasiel Puig, Matt Kemp and left-hander Alex Wood along with cash to the Cincinnati Reds for a pair of prospects as part of a seven-player deal. The Reds included starter Homer Bailey in the swap, a way of freeing them from the \$28 million owed him in the final year of his contract. Bailey didn't fit into the Reds' pitching plans, so they wanted to include him in a deal if possible. The Dodgers plan to release him.

"It was to grant him his release, more of fitting into the overall construct of the deal," said Andrew Friedman, the Dodgers' president of baseball operations. The Dodgers get minor leaguer infielder Jeter Downs and right-hander Josiah Gray. The Reds got catcher Kyle Farmer for depth at the position.

"I think if you look back over last few years, a hallmark of our teams has been depth on our roster," Friedman said. "This put us in position with a surplus in the outfield and pitching. A big focus was to figure out moves on those fronts that made sense."

For the Reds, it's another move toward becoming competitive after four straight 90-loss seasons. Cincinnati has been rebuilding since 2015, and decided it's time to spend some money and make some deals to complement its core of young players.

Continued on Page 23



Kane scores twice as Blackhawks beat Stars 5-2

Chicago Blackhawks right wing Patrick Kane (88) celebrates his goal with center Artem Anisimov (15) during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Dallas Stars in Dallas, Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018. The Blackhawks won 5-2.

Associated Press
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In this March 9, 2018, file photo, actor Billy Crystal applauds during the second half of an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Cleveland Cavaliers in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Longtime Clippers fan Crystal will be analyst for 1 game

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Clippers announcer Ralph Lawler was approached two months ago with a special request. A longtime season-ticket holder asked team president Gillian Zucker if he could call a game on television with Lawler and honor his 40 seasons with the club.

Lawler apprehensively said yes, until he found out it wasn't just any season-ticket holder. It happens to be one that has hosted the Academy Awards nine times.

Billy Crystal, who has been

the team's most well-known fan through the good times and bad, will be the analyst for the Jan. 31 game against the Lakers.

"They told me he really wants to do it," Lawler said before the Clippers faced Dallas on Thursday night. "He has been a fan forever and he wants to take his time to pay his respects for my longtime service to the club."

"It will be a big game and the building will be electric. He's done the Academy Awards for nine years so he can handle our broadcast," Lawler said. □



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin reacts in the finish area after winning a ski World Cup women's Giant Slalom race, in Courchevel, France, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

Associated Press

Shiffrin takes GS in Courchevel, 4th straight World Cup win

COURCHEVEL, France (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin appears unstoppable.

The American skier won a giant slalom on Friday for her fourth successive World Cup win. Shiffrin sat out the races in Val Gardena to rest up for a big block of technical events, her specialty.

With her 49th career victory, a third straight season-long overall title appears inevitable.

Shiffrin became the young-

est female skier to reach 49 World Cup wins, and she could reach the half-century mark in Saturday's slalom. She is undefeated in her trademark event since finishing a surprising fourth at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

"Today was a great way to start this weekend ... but I didn't get a lot of slalom training (the past few days), so I'm just going to move my feet quick and see what happens," Shiffrin

said with a laugh. If she wins on Saturday she will match the all-time record, held by Austria's Marlies Schild, of 35 World Cup slalom victories.

She won a giant slalom as well as a parallel slalom last year in Courchevel.

"I like it in France. And, it's starting to feel ... more familiar for me," Shiffrin said with a giggle, alluding to her relationship with French giant slalom specialist Mathieu Faivre. □

Australian Open to have 10-point tiebreakers in deciding set

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The Australian Open in January will play a 10-point tiebreaker in deciding sets, joining Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in using tiebreakers to avoid long matches. The tournament said on Friday the decision, reported widely a month ago but denied by Australian Open officials, came after consultation with current and former players and tennis officials. Temperatures often soar to 37 degrees (around 100 F) and beyond during the tournament.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley says "we asked the players — both past and present, commentators, agents and



In this Jan. 19, 2018, file photo, France's Alize Cornet is attended to by a trainer and tournament staff after suffering from the heat during her third round match against Belgium's Elise Mertens at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

TV analysts — whether they wanted to play an advantage final set or not, and went from there.

"We went with a 10-point tiebreak at six-games-all in the final set to ensure the fans still get a special finale to these often epic contests, with the longer tiebreak still then allowing for that one final twist or change of momentum in the contest. This longer tiebreak also can lessen some of the serving dominance that can prevail in the shorter tiebreak."

In the men's singles draw, the first four sets will feature a seven-point tiebreaker at 6-6, with the final set going to a 10-point tiebreaker

at 6-6. In women's singles play and men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles, the deciding set of three sets will be played with a 10-point tiebreaker at 6-6. Wimbledon announced in October it will next year have a standard first-to-seven-points tie-breaker when the deciding set reaches 12-12.

The U.S. Open was the first Grand Slam tournament to introduce final-set tiebreakers, with a first-to-seven-points game at 6-6.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Slam still decided by a long deciding set by advantage.

The Australian Open begins on Jan. 14. □

Heat snap Rockets' five-game win streak after Paul injured

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Josh Richardson scored 22 points, Tyler Johnson added 19 and the Miami Heat held off the Houston Rockets 101-99 on Thursday night for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

James Harden scored 35 for the Rockets, whose five-game winning streak was snapped when Eric Gordon's 3-point try at the buzzer hit the rim and bounced away. The worst part of the night for Houston, however, will likely be the loss of point guard Chris Paul in the second quarter to a strained left hamstring. Gordon's 3-pointer with 37 seconds left got Houston within two, and the Rockets

got a stop on a long ensuing Heat possession. Dwyane Wade missed, Hassan Whiteside got the offensive rebound and Wade wound up missing again, with the Rockets finally corraling the ball with 3.8 seconds left.

The last play went to Gordon, and his 3 — Houston's 54th attempt of the night from beyond the arc — was off, and Miami escaped. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 15 for Miami, which got 11 from James Johnson and 10 from Wade. Gordon scored 20 for the Rockets, who got 14 from PJ Tucker and 10 from Danuel House Jr.

CLIPPERS 125, MAVERICKS 121

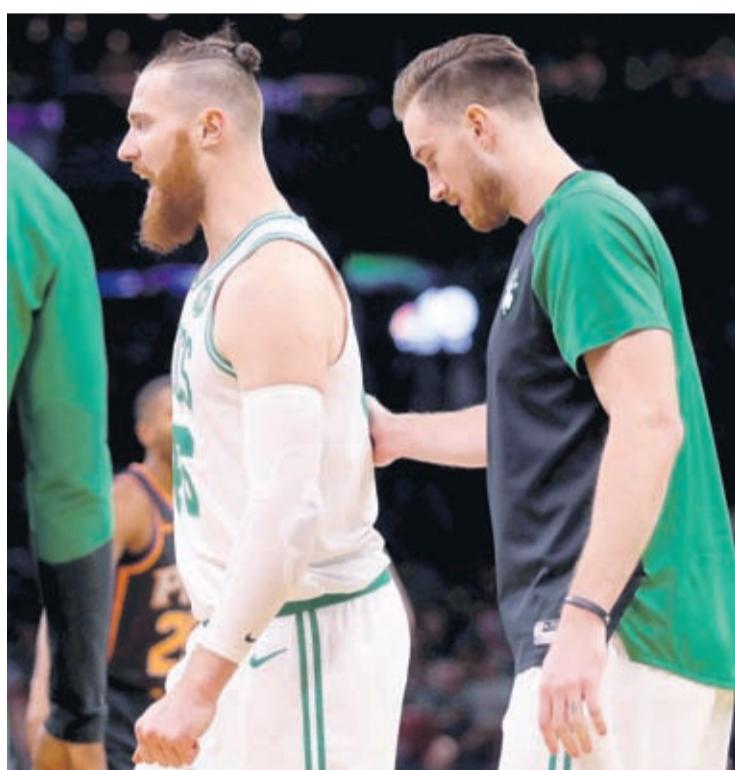
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Danilo Gallinari scored 32 points, Lou Williams added 26 and Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Dallas.

Rookie Luka Doncic scored a season-high 32 points for the Mavericks and JJ Barea added 19. DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and 22 rebounds in his first game back at Staples Center against his former team. Dallas trailed 89-82 at the start of the fourth quarter before scoring eight straight points to take the lead, with six coming from Devin Harris. That would be the first of six lead changes and four ties over the final 10 minutes. □



Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul, left, passes to center Clint Capela (15) as Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, in Miami.

Associated Press



Boston Celtics center Aron Baynes, left, gets a pat on the back from Gordon Hayward after breaking his left hand during the first quarter of a basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018.

Celtics C Baynes out 4-6 weeks after surgery on finger

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Celtics center Aron Baynes has had surgery on a broken left finger and will be out four to six weeks.

The team made the announcement on Thursday, a day after Baynes left early in the game against the Phoenix Suns after de-

flecting a pass with his left hand.

Baynes shook his hand in visible pain and went to the locker room when play stopped. Celtics coach Brad Stevens said after the 111-103 loss on Wednesday night that he could see the break on the X-ray. □

Setar announces that the office hours during the holidays of the Teleshops, Setar Store, repair center and Technical Department will be as follow:

Monday December 27th 2018
From 7:45 AM until 11:00 AM

On Tuesday, 25th & Wednesday, 26th of December 2018
All offices will be closed

Setar will be open again on Friday December 28th, 2018

The kiosk at the Airport and the Contact Center will continue its normal operation during the holidays.



Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price (31) makes a save on a shot by Arizona Coyotes right wing Richard Panik (14) tries to create a screen during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

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MAPLE LEAFS 6, PANTHERS 1

TORONTO (AP) — Auston Matthews had two goals and two assists to help Toronto to the runaway victory. Matthews had his second four-point game of the season. John Tavares also scored twice for Toronto, and Morgan Rielly had four assists. Mitch Marner added a goal and two assists, and Frederik Andersen made 25 saves. Matthews also had the 18th two-goal game of his career. Rielly is the first NHL defenseman to reach 40 points this season. Henrik Borgstrom scored for

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Carey Price gets 300th win as Canadiens beat Coyotes 2-1

By The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Carey Price stopped 36 shots in his 300th career win, leading the Montreal Canadiens to a 2-1 victory over the slumping Arizona Coyotes on Thursday night. Paul Byron and Shea Weber scored as Montreal won the second game of a back-to-back for the first time in four tries this season. Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored for the Coyotes, who have lost seven of eight. Darcy Kuemper stopped 26 shots.

It was the first meeting between the teams since their offseason trade that sent Max Domi to Montreal and Alex Galchenyuk to Arizona.

LIGHTNING 5, FLAMES 4, SO
CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — J.T. Miller scored in the seventh round of the shootout, lifting Tampa Bay to another victory.

Ondrej Palat, Steven Stamkos, Alex Killorn and Dan Girardi scored in regulation for the Lightning (27-7-2), who improved to 10-0-1 in their past 11 games. Louis Domingue made 33 saves. Nikita Kucherov added two assists. Tampa Bay is 16-0-0 when Kucherov records a multipoint game this season.

Johnny Gaudreau and Sam Bennett each had a goal and an assist for the Flames (22-11-3), who led 3-1 after one. Sean Monahan and Mikael Backlund also scored.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, PANTHERS 1
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Matthews had his second four-point game of the season. John Tavares also scored twice for Toronto, and Morgan Rielly had four assists. Mitch Marner added a goal and two assists, and Frederik Andersen made 25 saves.

Matthews also had the 18th two-goal game of his career. Rielly is the first NHL defenseman to reach 40 points this season. Henrik Borgstrom scored for

Florida, and Roberto Luongo stopped 17 shots before getting the hook early in the third period. The Panthers beat Toronto 4-3 in overtime at home Saturday night.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, ISLANDERS 2

LAS VEGAS (AP) — William Karlsson and Paul Stastny scored 1:03 apart in the third period, and Vegas goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury earned his league-leading 20th victory.

Nate Schmidt had a goal and two assists and Brandon Pirri also scored as Vegas came back from two goals down near the midpoint of the second period. Fleury made 19 saves in his 424th win, snapping a tie with Tony Esposito for ninth place on the career list.

Mathew Barzal and Brock Nelson scored for New York, and Thomas Greiss stopped 43 shots.

JETS 5, SHARKS 3

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Nikolaj Ehlers recorded his fourth career hat trick, Mason Appleton got his first career goal and Winnipeg won for the sixth time in seven games.

Dustin Byfuglien also scored to help the Jets bounce back from a loss at Los Angeles on Tuesday. Connor Hellebuyck made 41 saves. Evander Kane had a goal and an assist for the Sharks, who had won five in a row. Joe Pavelski and Joonas Donskoi also scored, and Martin Jones made 19 saves.

PENGUINS 2, WILD 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bryan Rust scored two goals to lead the Penguins to the win.

Rust put Pittsburgh ahead to stay when he scored his ninth of the season 8:12 into the third period. Rust has at least one goal in five of his last six games, including the game-winner one night earlier when the Penguins defeated the defending Stanley Cup champion Capitals on the road.

Pittsburgh's Jake Guentzel picked off a Greg Pateryn pass behind the net, and centered to the slot

where Rust slipped a shot between Devan Dubnyk's pads. Pittsburgh won for the fourth time in five games. Casey DeSmith stopped 40 shots for his eighth win in 12 home starts.

Jordan Greenway scored for the Wild, who lost their third straight game. Dubnyk made 35 saves.

FLYERS 2, PREDATORS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Carter Hart made 31 saves for his second straight win in his second NHL start, helping Philadelphia to the victory. Claude Giroux and Jakub Voracek scored for the Flyers, who won their second straight under interim coach Scott Gordon. Gordon replaced Dave Hakstol, who was fired on Monday.

The 20-year-old Hart made 20 saves in his debut in Tuesday's 3-2 win over Detroit.

Nick Bonino scored for Nashville, which lost its ninth straight game on the road.

BLACKHAWKS 5, STARS 2

DALLAS (AP) — Patrick Kane had two goals and an assist, and the Blackhawks earned their first win streak in two months.

Alex DeBrincat had a goal and two assists for last-place Chicago, and defenseman Erik Gustafsson scored for the second straight game. Brendan Perlini added an empty-netter, and Cam Ward made 26 saves.

The Blackhawks matched a season high with their second straight win. They hadn't won two in a row since Oct. 23 and 25 against Anaheim and the New York Rangers.

Tyler Seguin and Taylor Fedun scored for Dallas, which lost for the fifth time in six games. Ben Bishop had 24 stops.

BRUINS 3, DUCKS 1

BOSTON (AP) — Jaroslav Halak stopped 24 shots for the Bruins, and David Pastrnak had a goal and two assists. Torey Krug had a goal and an assist and David Krejci also scored to help Boston snap a nine-game losing streak to Anaheim and win for the fifth time in seven games. □

APNewsBreak: Average MLB salary down for 1st time since '04

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

The average major league salary dropped this year for the first time since 2004 and for only the fourth time since record-keeping started 50 years ago, according to the players' association.

The union said Friday its final average was \$4,095,686, down \$1,436 from \$4,097,122 last year. Since the union started keeping track in 1967, the only previous declines had been by \$66 in 1987, when owners were found to have conspired to hold down salaries among free agents; a 4 percent decline in 1995 following a 7½-month strike that wiped out the World Series for the first time since 1904; and by 2.5 percent in 2004.

This year's survey was based on the 968 players on major league rosters and disabled lists on Aug. 31, the last day before the active player limit expanded from

25 to 40.

After years of strong growth, salaries have stagnated over the last three years. This year's average is up just 3.6 percent from \$3,952,252 in 2015. An unusually slow free-agent market last offseason contributed to this

year's drop. Among the 166 players who exercised the right to become free agents after the World Series, exactly half of the 140 agreements reached were completed after the start of spring training workouts Feb. 14. Many of those deals involving veterans

were for depressed prices. Two years ago, the union calculated the average at \$3,966,020, a 0.35 percent rise from the previous year's \$3,952,252 that was the lowest rate of increase since a 2.5 percent drop in 2004. Major League Baseball calculated that year's

average at \$3,825,967, down from \$3,835,498 in 2015. The union includes a pro-rated share of option buyouts that may be earned if the option is declined, while MLB does not take those into account in its average. □



Kimberly-Clark

ESPAÑOL:

Kimberly-Clark anuncia el retiro voluntario de aproximadamente 135 Cajas de tampones U by Kotex® Sleek®, absorbencia regular, que fueron vendidas y enviadas a Aruba, debido a un defecto relacionado con la calidad que podría afectar el rendimiento de este producto. La compañía había anunciado previamente la retirada de ese producto vendido en los Estados Unidos y Canadá.

El retiro del mercado es limitado a lotes específicos de tampones U by Kotex® Sleek®, Absorbencia Regular, que fueron fabricados entre el 7 de octubre del 2016 y el 16 de octubre del 2018 y distribuidos entre el 17 de octubre del 2016 y el 23 de octubre del 2018. En el caso de Aruba, el lote afectado es únicamente el número 102945307. Los Consumidores pueden identificar este producto buscando los números de lotes específicos en el inferior del empaque. Una lista completa de números de lotes retirados es disponible en el sitio web de [U by Kotex®](#). Comerciantes han sido alertados que deben retirar de los estantes los números de lotes retirados y publicar un aviso en sus tiendas.

Ningún otro producto de la marca U by Kotex® está sujeto a este retiro voluntario.

Kimberly-Clark ha recibido informes de consumidores de tampones U by Kotex® Sleek®, Absorbencia Regular, que se separan o deshacen al ser removidos, y en algunos casos causando que usuarios busquen atención médica para quitar pedazos de tampón dejados en el cuerpo. También ha habido un número pequeño de informes de infecciones, irritación vaginal, herida vaginal localizada, u otros síntomas.

Cualquier consumidor que tenga en su posesión tampones U by Kotex® Sleek®, Absorbencia Regular, impactados por este retiro del mercado debe dejar de usar el producto inmediatamente y comunicarse enseguida con el equipo de Servicio al Consumidor de Kimberly-Clark al 1-888-255-3499 entre las 7:30 a.m. y 7:00 p.m. hora central, lunes a viernes, para información sobre este retiro del mercado. Consumidores que experimentan herida vaginal (dolor, sangrado, o incomodidad), irritación vaginal (comezón o hinchazón), infecciones urogenitales (infecciones de vejiga y/o vagina, bacterianas y/o de levadura), u otros síntomas tal como sofocos, dolor abdominal, náusea, o vómito después de usar el producto impactado deben buscar atención médica inmediatamente.

Los profesionales de la salud y los consumidores de los EE. UU. pueden informar sobre reacciones adversas o problemas de calidad que pueden experimentar al usar estos dispositivos en [MedWatch](#): el programa de la Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos, siguiendo las instrucciones en el formulario para mandarlo por fax o por correo, o llamando a la FDA al 1-800-FDA-1088.

FIFA research says 3.5B viewed some World Cup action

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

GENEVA (AP) — More than 3.5 billion people viewed some of the 2018 World Cup action, with 1.12 billion watching at least one minute of France beating Croatia 4-2 in the final, according to FIFA.

A FIFA-commissioned review of World Cup viewing published Friday said the television audience for the final was 516.6 million by the traditional measure of "global average in-home audience." More watched on digital devices and out-of-home screenings in public spaces, bars and restaurants. The second-highest rating was 327.5 million for Croatia's semifinal win over England in extra time.

Big NFL Week 16 of inter-conference matchups

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

For inter-conference matchups in the penultimate week of the season, the NFL couldn't have done much better. Pittsburgh at New Orleans, Houston at Philadelphia, Kansas City at Seattle, and Washington at Tennessee all have significant playoff implications. Not a bad way to head into the final two weekends.

"I think the message for the whole team is we're not satisfied with where we're at," says Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Kansas City can clinch the top seed in the AFC and win the AFC West under certain circumstances.

"We wanted to put ourselves in this position, but at the same time, we know we still have a long way to go. We're going to keep in that mentality the rest of this season and into the playoffs (of) not being satisfied with just being here. We want to make sure we can go and win the big games whenever we need to."

Well, there are a lot of big games on Saturday and Sunday.

Pittsburgh (8-5-1) at New Orleans (12-2)

NFC South champion New Orleans gets home-field edge for the conference playoffs by winning here, though it can happen in other ways, too. Pittsburgh's situation is precarious: The Steelers snapped a three-game slide by beating New England, but has no postseason guarantee yet. There are scenarios for them to secure the division, and others, with two losses, that keep them from making the postseason.

Pittsburgh's previous victory in New Orleans came in 1990. The Saints are 5-1 in the Superdome, averaging 38 points. Drew Brees' 74.9 percent completion rate leads the NFL. He holds the single-season record at 72 percent.

During their six home games, Brees has completed 77.7 percent (153 of 197) for 1,925 yards (320.8 per game) with 20 TDs and one interception.



In this Dec. 9, 2018, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) hands off to running back Jaylen Samuels during the first half of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

Kansas City (11-3) at Seattle (8-6)

Although the Chiefs are safely into the postseason and in strong position, one loss could sink them to a wild card. Their prolific offense leads the league in points per game (35.6), yards per play (6.78) and yards per game (427.3). But it will be tested in Seattle, which had quite a misstep in a loss at lowly San Francisco last Sunday, but has a physical, aggressive defense and top-ranked running game.

Yet it's KC defensive tackle Chris Jones who has the gaudiest numbers. He had 2½ sacks last week and has at least one sack in 10 straight games, an NFL record. Jones has 14 for the season.

The Seahawks must win and have some other things occur to secure an NFC wild-card spot.

Houston (10-4) at Philadelphia (7-7)

The defending Super Bowl champ Eagles must win out and it still might not be enough to get to January. Then again, 9-7 also could win the NFC East. That's how jumbled things are. "We're fighting for our lives right now. It's a little different for us, different feel," says coach Doug Peder-

son, whose team had the NFC's best record in 2017. Houston has the AFC's second seed behind Kansas City and will have a wild-card bye if it wins out. But the Texans don't own the AFC South title yet, though it comes by beating Philly. Making the playoffs is very likely after a 0-3 start.

"It really doesn't matter how you win, you just have to win," says star DE J.J. Watt, in the midst of a sensational comeback season. "We've kind of heard it all year: 'This. That. They didn't.' We won. I don't care how we win, I just want to win. I don't care if people think it's pretty, I don't care if they like it, if they don't like it, I just want to win."

Washington (7-7) at Tennessee (8-6), Saturday

After winning seven of eight, the Titans have gone from forgotten — similar to Houston — to a player. They almost certainly are aiming for a wild card and probably need to win out to get it.

The Redskins seemed done until they beat Jacksonville last week. They actually could win the NFC East by winning out and getting help, but they also are ravaged by injuries, including at quarterback, where journeyman Josh Johnson now

has the job.

Tennessee is 5-1 at home and has swept three games with the NFC East.

Baltimore (8-6) at Los Angeles Chargers (11-3), Saturday

The Ravens own the second AFC wild card, but are tied with the Titans and Colts. Their eyes are on something bigger considering how close they are to the Steelers in the AFC North. The Ravens are 4-1 under rookie QB Lamar Jackson, and lead the NFL in total defense (290.2 yards per game) and fewest points allowed (18.1).

But beating the Chargers is a tall order. No team is playing more maturely or doing better in clutch situations. Los Angeles is 20-6 since starting last season 0-4 and hopes to get back featured RB Melvin Gordon (knee).

New York Giants (5-9) at Indianapolis (8-6)

Indy is another AFC wild-card contender that probably needs two victories, which would include the finale at Tennessee. Andrew Luck, like Watt, is having a monster return season from injury, and needs 49 yards passing for a fourth 4,000-yard season.

"I've been a part of teams where you sit and say, 'We

need this to happen with this.' It doesn't work like that," Luck says. "You've got to handle your own business."

That means trying to shut down RB Saquon Barkley, who needs seven catches to break Reggie Bush's record for receptions (88) by a rookie. Barkley is tied with former Colts star Edgerrin James for second-most games with 100 yards from scrimmage by an NFL rookie (12). He also needs 191 scrimmage yards to join James and Eric Dickerson as the only rookies with 2,000 yards from scrimmage.

Buffalo (5-9) at New England (9-5)

For the third straight week, the Patriots can secure their 10th straight AFC East crown. Considering their success against Buffalo, well, here are the numbers:

—Patriots will be looking for their 26th season sweep over the Bills and 14th series sweep since 2000.

—Bill Belichick has an 86-30 (.741) all-time regular-season record against the AFC East as Patriots coach.

—Tom Brady owns a 29-3 record against the Bills. Brady's 29 wins against Buffalo are the most by a quarterback against any single opponent.

—New England is 6-0 at home.

Los Angeles Rams (11-3) at Arizona (3-11)

Things have turned sour for the Rams, who for the first time under second-year coach Sean McVay have lost two in a row. Of course, their gaudy record already has earned them the NFC West championship and they get a wild-card round bye with two victories.

In what appears a mismatch, the Rams have gone 3-0 and outscored Arizona 99-16 under McVay. Still, in the past three games, Jared Goff has one TD pass and six interceptions.

Los Angeles DT Aaron Donald leads the NFL with 16½ sacks.

The Cardinals have lost eight games by 10 or more points and four by at least 20. □

Charlo twins fight at Barclays, but not against each other

By BARRY WILNER

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oh brother, where are thou? In the ring, bro.

That's where twins Jermall and Jermell Charlo will be Saturday night at Barclays Center. No, not fighting each other; no family feuds here.

Jermall will take on Matt Korobov, a replacement for Willie Monroe Jr., in one feature. The other has Jermell against Tony Harrison. Jermall Charlo won a coin toss with his brother and will close the card in a 12-round WBC interim middleweight championship bout. Before that, Jermell Charlo will fight Tony Harrison in defense of the WBC super welterweight title.

The 28-year-old brothers plan to put on a show.

"Me and my brother are both hungry," Jermall said. "We want the fans and everyone to know that we're the best in the world. Sooner or later the rest of the world will know it."

Added Jermell: "Now that we're here, me and my brother have big opportunities. We can't drop the ball. This is important to us and we're going to take advantage of it. It's only right that me and my brother close out this year."

But can they close out their opponents?

Jermall (27-0, 21-0 knockouts) has had to make a major adjustment after Monroe tested positive for a banned substance and



In this April 22, 2017, file photo, Jermell Charlo, left, reacts after defeating Charles Hatley in a WBC World super welterweight title fight in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and in this April 20, 2018, file photo, Jermall Charlo, right, poses for photographs at the weigh-in for his fight against Hugo Centeno Jr. in New York.

Associated Press

was kicked off the card. Korobov (28-1, 14 knockouts) was on the undercard and now makes a huge step up into the main event. His only loss was in his other title shot, against Andy Lee for the WBO version of the middleweight crown in 2014. "Every fight is tough," said Jermall, a champion since 2015. "I'm not sleeping on this guy. I'm sleeping this guy."

"This is a great chance for me to put on for my fans and my people. There's no disappointment. Korobov is a different kind of fighter than Willie Monroe, but I am prepared to fight against any style."

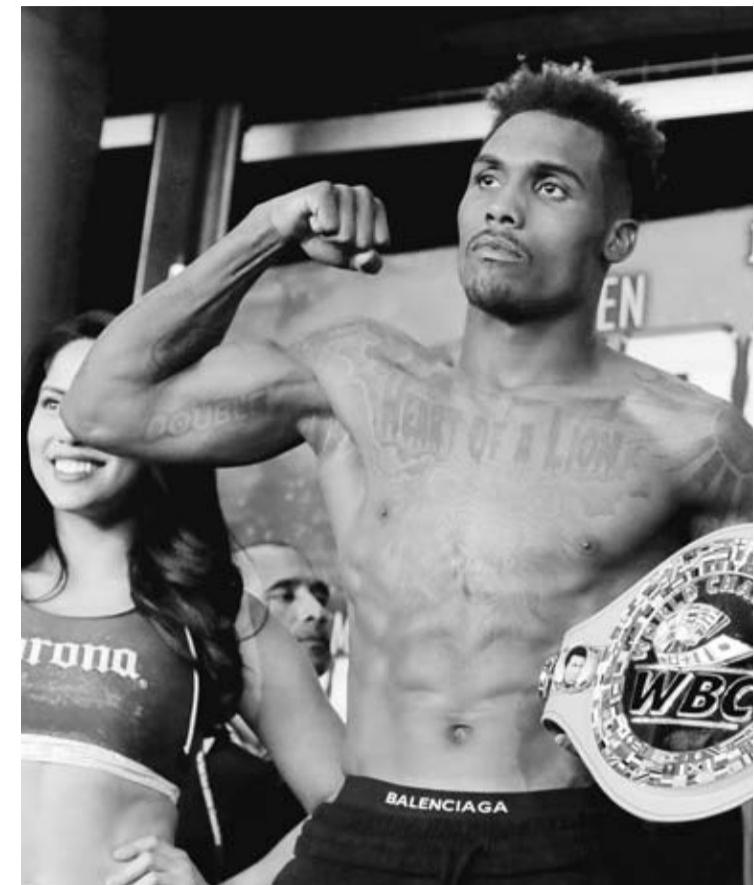
Korobov, naturally, is thrilled

at the opportunity. Whether he feels that way after exchanging punches with Charlo is another story.

"I have the skills to make this a great night for myself," he said. "I am going to bring everything I've got. I spent some time outside of the ring, but the whole time I was preparing for a moment like this and I'm going to make it count."

"This was such a big opportunity that I was immediately telling my team 'yes.' This is what all my work has been leading to."

Jermell Charlo (31-0, 15 KOs) knew his opponent all along, and he recognizes that Harrison (27-2, 21 KOs) can be troublesome. Like



Korobov, Harrison lost in his

only previous title chance, to Jarrett Hurd in early 2017 for the IBF super welterweight belt and has won three straight fights.

No matter, he claims.

"Everyone will see Saturday night that I'm just different than these other guys," he said. "I'm going to get in there and do what I have to do for 12 rounds. If I do that, Jermell Charlo should prevail. I'm going to put my life on the line like every time I step into the ring."

"I'm a hungry fighter. All the talk on the outside, that makes me want to destroy my opponent. I'm going to choose to be dominant and go out and destroy this

guy."

Harrison seems as focused on a rematch with Hurd as on facing Jermell Charlo.

"I think that Jermell is a more technically sound fighter than Jarrett Hurd, but I'll be able to answer better after Saturday night," Harrison said. "I can't get caught up in comparing them now."

"There's nothing I want more than a rematch with that Jarrett Hurd. All roads lead to Jarrett Hurd for whoever wins this fight."

The card also includes a heavyweight matchup between Dominic Breazeale and Carlos Negron. Each believes a victory could lead him to WBC champion Deontay Wilder. □

Continued from Page 17

"We still have (financial) resources to make this team better — we're not done yet," said Dick Williams, the Reds' president of baseball operations. "We did trade some good prospects here, but we acquired four major league players that address needs for us and I think we're better in the short-term."

Last week, the Reds traded pitching prospect Tanner Rainey to the Nationals for 32-year-old starter Tanner Roark, who led the National League in losses last season while going 9-15 with a 4.34 ERA.

Cincinnati didn't know what

to do with Bailey, who went 1-14 last season with a 6.09 ERA and resisted a move to the bullpen. He threw a pair of no-hitters before his career was sidetracked by three arm operations. He was entering the final year on a six-year, \$105 million deal.

The rotation has been the Reds' biggest problem, with prospects failing to produce consistently, and Wood provides another upgrade.

He was an All-Star for the Dodgers in 2017, going 16-3 with a 2.72 ERA. He was 9-7 last season with a 3.68 ERA in 27 starts and six relief appearances.

"We think he's a solid middle-of-the-rotation guy who's going to fit in really well," Williams said.

The Reds' outfield was in flux when they chose not to tender a contact to Billy Hamilton, making him a free agent. Puig is expected to play right field. He's in the final year of a seven-year, \$42 million deal.

Kemp, 34, batted .290 with 25 doubles, 21 homers and 85 RBIs last season, when he was an All-Star for the third time.

The Dodgers felt good about the chance to deal from their glut of outfielders and pitchers.

"If you look at our rotation

and outfield four hours ago, it was not a functional

roster," Friedman said. "It's a deal that makes sense." □



In this Sept. 5, 2018, file photo, Cincinnati Reds starting pitcher Homer Bailey delivers in the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Breaking up (with Facebook) is hard to do: Here's how

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Every relationship has a breaking point. Even yours with Facebook.

There's a way out, though the social network will try to win you back with promises to do better. Maybe even flowers.

For some users, though, the past two years of privacy scandals, election manipulation by Russian trolls, executive apologies and even the political disagreements with friends and relatives have become too much. The latest: an alarming New York Times report detailing the massive trove of user data that the company has shared with such companies as Apple, Netflix and Amazon.

A growing number of people say they are deleting Facebook, or at least considering it.

While Facebook has tried to address some of these problems, it's not enough for some users. Hard as it might seem to quit, especially for those entwined with it for years, it can be done.

Mostly.

GOODBYE FOREVER

Before deleting your account, rescue your posts and photos. Facebook lets you download the data you've shared with Facebook since you joined. This includes your posts and photos, as well as the "activity log" — the history of everything you've done on Facebook, such as likes and comments on posts, use of apps and searches. The download also includes



In this Aug. 21, 2018 file photo, a Facebook start page is shown on a smartphone in Surfside, Fla. Associated Press

your profile, messages, list of friends and ads you've clicked on.

This process should give you a good — perhaps scary — idea of what Facebook has on you.

What you won't get are photos other people shared with you, even if you've been tagged. You need to save those individually. And some stuff will remain, including what others have posted about you, your chats with others and your posts in Facebook groups (though your name will be grayed out). To delete all this, you'll need to sift through your "activity log," accessible through your profile page, and delete each item individually. Once you've saved everything and gone through your activity log, sign in

one last time. Go to <http://bit.ly/198wlol> and click on the blue button. Facebook says the process could take a few days. Your delete request will be cancelled if you log back in during this time. Facebook says it may take up to 90 days for all the data associated with your account to be wiped, but you can't change your mind after the first few days are up.

If you used your Facebook account for third-party apps and sites, you'll need new usernames and passwords for each.

TRIAL SEPARATION

If you're not quite ready for a divorce, deactivating your account is an option. To do this, go to your account settings.

Deactivating means other people won't be able to

see your profile, but if you log back in, the whole thing is canceled and you are "active" again. Ditto if you log into an outside app or site using your Facebook account.

FOMO (FEAR OF MISSING OUT)

Depending on whether you were a full-time Facebook addict or an occasional lurker, the psychological separation could prove harder or easier than the physical one. Facebook has become a one-stop shop for so many things. You can keep up with friends and family, find out about or create local events, buy and sell stuff, keep up with the news, raise money for a cause or join groups of like-minded people such as parents, porch gardeners and people with a rare

disease.

There are other places to do many of these things. There's Eventbrite for events, Letgo for buying and selling stuff, Peanut for moms to connect, Meetup to find and meet like-minded people, GoFundMe for raising money and Twitter, or, gasp, your local newspaper's website for the news. The difference is there's no single other place to do all these things, and your friends might not be there.

If you find your mind wandering back to Facebook as you go through your day, thinking how you might craft a post about a thought you've just had or an article you came across, it's OK. Let it go. It's all part of the breakup process.

And while you may not see updates about near-forgotten schoolmates or that random person you met six years ago, the people who matter most will stick around. For them, there's email, the phone, and meeting in person for coffee.

ABOUT THOSE OTHER APPS

If your boycott of Facebook has more to do with your view of the company than with tiring of the Facebook service, you might consider deleting Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger as well — they are all owned by Facebook. Deleting your Facebook account won't affect your Instagram or WhatsApp account. If you want to keep using Messenger, you can create an account using your phone number instead of your Facebook profile. □

Facebook purges more Myanmar accounts for misrepresentation

BANGKOK (AP) — Facebook has announced its third and biggest purge of military-linked accounts in Myanmar, where critics have charged that the social network did too little to block inflammatory material that fueled communal hatred and violence, particularly against the country's Muslim Rohingya minority.

The social media giant said

in a statement Wednesday that it had removed 425 Facebook pages, 17 groups and 135 accounts in Myanmar for engaging in "coordinated inauthentic behavior," meaning they misrepresented who was running the provocative accounts. It also removed 15 Instagram accounts. Some 700,000 Rohingya fled their homes in western Myanmar since last year in

response to a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by the military, which has been accused of massive human rights violations. Rights activists and U.N. investigators have charged that the military in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar was carrying out a policy of ethnic cleansing, or even genocide. "As part of our ongoing investigations into this type of behavior in

Myanmar, we discovered that these seemingly independent news, entertainment, beauty and lifestyle Pages were linked to the Myanmar military, and to the Pages we removed for coordinated inauthentic behavior in Myanmar in August," said Facebook's statement. "This kind of behavior is not allowed on Facebook under our misrepresentation policy be-

cause we don't want people or organizations creating networks of accounts to mislead others about who they are, or what they're doing." In its initial action in August to fight the problem, Facebook said it had banned Myanmar's powerful military chief and 19 other individuals and organizations in order to "prevent the spread of hate and misinformation." □

Stock indexes meander up and down after days of huge losses

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are mixed Friday and indexes overseas are slightly lower as a steep plunge in global stock markets comes to at least a temporary halt.

Investors bought utilities, household goods makers and other stocks they see as relatively safe, and Nike surged after a strong quarterly report. A key Federal Reserve leader reassured investors by saying the central bank is monitoring the economy and markets, and could change its course on interest rates if it has to.

Markets have suffered wide losses over the last week. The major U.S. indexes have fallen more than 10 percent this month, and without a substantial gain over the final days of trading, they are headed for their single worst month since February 2009. That's before the current bull market began.

Investors around the world have grown increasingly pessimistic about the global economy's prospects over the next few years. It's widely expected to slow down, but traders are concerned the cooling might be worse than they previously believed and that the U.S. could eventually tip into a recession.

John Williams, the president of the New York branch of the Federal Reserve, said in an interview with CNBC that the Fed is aware the U.S. economy might weaken more significantly next year.

The Fed raised interest rates earlier this week and signaled that it expects to raise them two more times next year. Investors aren't sure how much that will impair the economy, and the stock market tumbled as they worried the Fed just wasn't concerned about that possibility.

"What I think the Fed is trying to do is soften the rhetoric a little bit by saying 'we're going to be monitoring the economy and we acknowledge that things have eased a bit,'" said



This photo shows the exterior of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday evening, Dec. 20, 2018.

Associated Press

Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist for CFRA. The Fed is projecting that the U.S. economy will grow 3 percent this year, the fastest since 2005, and about 2.3 percent next year, and forecasts two years of further increases after that. But as interest rates rise and regions the U.S. does a lot of business with, like Europe and China, also slow down, those estimates might be harder to reach.

Trade tensions between the U.S. and China, the largest and next-largest economies in the world, are not the only reason for the expected slowdown in economic growth and corporate profits, but they are adding even more uncertainty to a picture that already looks cloudy.

The S&P 500 index jumped as much as 1.5 percent following Williams' comments, but the gains didn't last. The index edged up 2 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,469 at 11:39 a.m. Eastern time. The S&P 500, which is widely used by funds that track the U.S. market, has fallen about 16 percent from its high in September.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 74 points, or 0.3 percent, to 22,934. The Nasdaq slipped 41 points, or 0.6 percent, to 6,486. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 7 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,318.

Athletic gear maker Nike jumped 7.7 percent to \$72.74 after a better-than-expected third-quarter report. That helped shoe retailer Foot Locker, which gained 4.2 percent to \$49.91.

Household goods companies climbed. Pepsi rose 2.1 percent to \$112.57 and Procter & Gamble added 1.4 percent to \$92.22. Also rising were utilities and health care companies. Utility company Dominion Energy jumped 1.7 percent to \$76.10 and drugmaker AbbVie surged 2.7 percent to 87.66.

As of Friday morning, utilities and health care companies were the only two sectors in the S&P 500 that are higher than they were on Jan. 1. The S&P 500 itself is down about 8 percent in 2018. After accounting for dividends, it's on track for its

first annual loss since 2008, the year the global financial crisis roiled markets.

Defense contractors fell after President Donald Trump said he's withdrawing U.S. soldiers from Syria in an unexpected move. Media reports say the administration might also pull large numbers of soldiers out of Afghanistan. Northrop Grumman fell 2.2 percent to \$238.34 and Lockheed Martin fell 2.2 percent to \$259.43.

The market's big losses this month are an outlier because December is generally the strongest time of the year for U.S. stocks. Traders often talk about a "Santa rally" that adds to the year's gains as positions are closed out and people adjust their portfolios in anticipation of the year to come. Barring huge gains, this will be the worst December for the U.S. market since the 1930s.

Germany's DAX slipped 0.2 percent while France's CAC 40 fell 0.5 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain dipped 0.5 percent. The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong rose 0.5 percent while South Korea's

Kospi inched up 0.1 percent. The Japanese Nikkei declined 1.1 percent.

All of those indexes have taken steep losses this year. The DAX, Hang Seng and Kospi have all plunged at least 20 percent since early January and the Nikkei is down 17 percent since early October.

Oil prices have declined 40 percent from recent highs amid concerns over a glut in the market and the slowing economy. Benchmark U.S. crude dipped 0.2 percent to \$45.81 a barrel in New York. The international standard, Brent crude, declined 1 percent to \$53.80 a barrel in London.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note stayed at 2.79 percent.

The U.S. dollar also ticked higher after two days of sharp losses brought on by fears about the economy and slower increases in interest rates. The dollar edged down to 111.08 yen from 111.11 yen. The euro fell back to \$1.1416 from \$1.1469 and the British pound rose to \$1.2672 from \$1.2671. □

Mutts



6 Chix



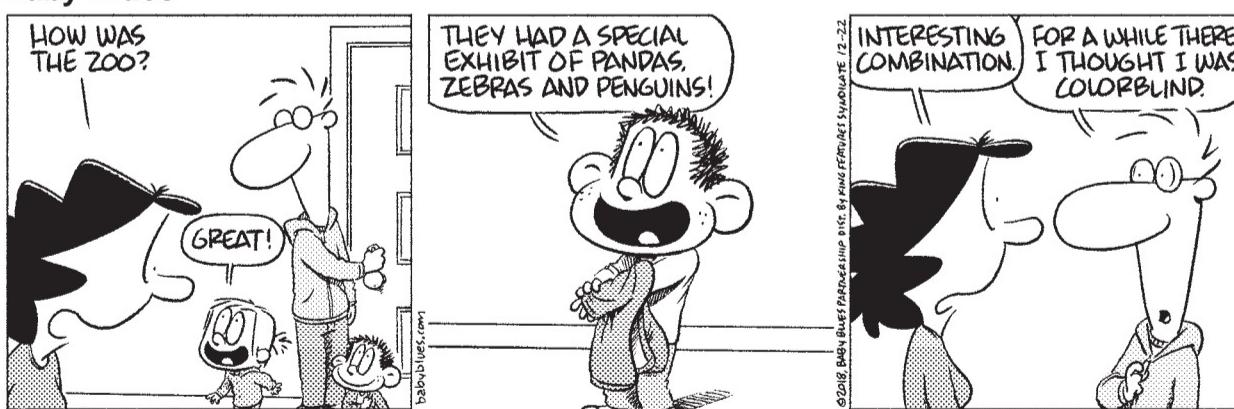
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4						8				
7							5	2	7		
3							5			5	9
5							2	6	3	1	
8							4			4	
1	4									6	
	7						1	9			
	5							3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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3	6	7	1	2	9	5	4	8			
4	8	9	6	7	5	1	2	3			
5	2	1	8	3	4	6	7	9			
7	5	3	4	6	2	8	9	1			
8	1	6	7	9	3	2	5	4			
2	9	4	5	1	8	7	3	6			
9	3	8	2	5	6	4	1	7			
6	7	5	3	4	1	9	8	2			
1	4	2	9	8	7	3	6	5			

Yesterday's puzzle answer



ACROSS

- 1 Playfully shy
- 4 Book ___ Month Club
- 9 Injure with a dagger
- 13 Popular flower
- 14 Used a crowbar
- 15 Tie ___; London's subway
- 16 Play divisions
- 17 Liable to spoil
- 19 Not up to ___; substandard
- 20 Booby prize recipient
- 21 Actor Buddy
- 22 ___ in; inundated by
- 24 Actor Kilmer
- 25 Make up one's mind
- 27 Embrace
- 30 Enlighten; inform
- 31 Inexpensive meal
- 33 Shake ___; drastic reorganizations
- 35 Tool with a blade
- 36 Homecoming attendees
- 37 Twirl
- 38 Pass away
- 39 Laughs loudly
- 40 Isle of ___; Italian resort
- 41 Canada's Prince ___ Island
- 43 Shakespearean hero
- 44 Rage
- 45 Woman's accessory
- 46 Verizon store purchase
- 49 Get up
- 51 West, for one
- 54 Spreadable sausage
- 56 Cribbage markers
- 57 ___ the Rainbow
- 58 Sudden & sharp, as pain
- 59 On ___ own; independent
- 60 Declare untrue
- 61 Transparent
- 62 ___ Too Late"; Carole King song

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/22/18

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MOOD	SUDS	ARMS
ERRIS	OPEN	LEAP
ANISE	OSCILLATE	
DOG	EAT	POURED
	IMPLY	PAR
DANIEL	SINEWS	
AWARD	SHUNS	HAD
TALE	SWING	PILE
AIL	ROAMS	SERVE
TYCOON	SCALED	
HUT	WORRY	
ENOUGH	INA	BIT
CONCEITED	PRICE	
HOCK	NEST	SHRED
ONES	GASH	ODDS

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12/22/18

- 37 Houston & Donaldson
- 48 Microwave, e.g.
- 49 ___ as; for example
- 39 More uncommon
- 50 Word of agreement
- 52 Matures
- 53 Suffix for giant or host
- 55 "Wish I ___ Here"; 2014 Zach Braff film
- 34 In a ___; pouty
- 45 Adhesive
- 36 VP between Quayle & Cheney
- 46 Trudge
- 47 Queen's domain
- 56 Luau dish

Alba the albino orangutan returned to jungle in Indonesia

BUKIT BAKA BUKIT RAYA, Indonesia (AP) — The world's only known albino orangutan climbed trees, foraged for food and began building a nest after being released into a remote Borneo jungle more than a year after conservation officials found her starving and dehydrated in an Indonesian village.

The Borneo Orangutan Survival foundation says the great ape, called Alba after thousands worldwide responded to an appeal for a name, has tripled in weight since being rescued in April last year. Her name means "white" in Latin and "dawn" in Spanish.

Alba and another rehabilitated orangutan, Kika, were released inside Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park on Wednesday after a more than 24-hour journey from their rehabilitation center by vehicle, boat and hiking.

The foundation originally planned to create a 5-hectare (12-acre) "forest island" for Alba rather than a release into truly natural habitat because of health issues related to her albinism including poor sight and hearing and the possibility of skin cancer.

But the government's Natural Resources Conservation Agency and other agen-

cies decided it was appropriate to release Alba into the wild because of her strong physical condition and intrinsically wild behavior.

She will be electronically tracked and regularly monitored by a medical team. "Alba has no inferiority complex as we imagined before. She is very confident compared to other orangutans," said veterinarian Agus Fathoni.

"I think the real threat actually comes from humans. What we're worried about is poaching where this very special condition makes her a target," he told The Associated Press.

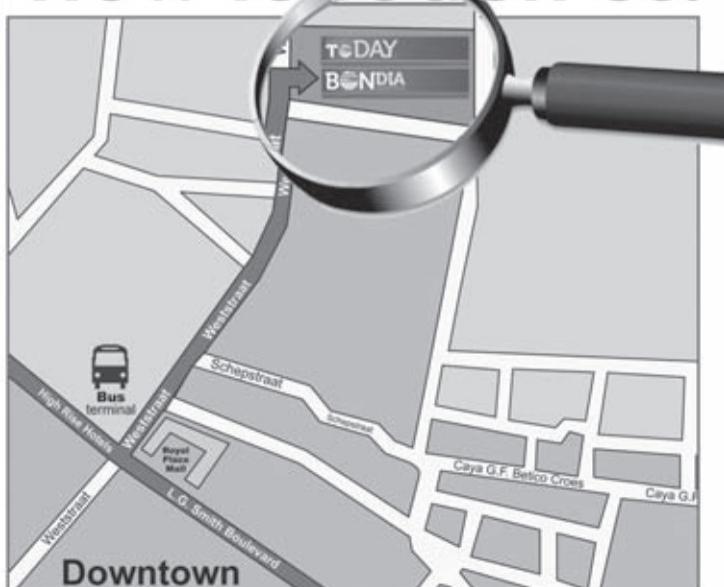
Patrols of Alba's new home by national park and conservation agency staff will aim to deter poachers, though they admit the number of personnel is limited.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, which declared Borneo's orangutans critically endangered in 2016, says their numbers have dropped by nearly two-thirds since the early 1970s as plantation agriculture destroyed and fragmented their forest habitat.

The Sumatran orangutan is a separate species and has been critically endangered since 2008. □



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December 22

Volendam

December 23

Zuiderdam

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Child Abuse Prevention	
Tel. 582 4433	
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672	
General Info	
Phone Directory Tel. 118	

Science Says: A big space crash likely made Uranus lopsided

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Uranus is a lopsided oddity, the only planet to spin on its side. Scientists now think they know how it got that way: It was pushed over by a rock at least twice as big as Earth.

Detailed computer simulations show that an enormous rock crashed into the seventh planet from the sun, said Durham University astronomy researcher Jacob Kegerreis, who presented his analysis at a large earth and space science conference this month.

Uranus is unique in the solar system. The massive planet tilts about 90 degrees on its side, as do its five largest moons. Its magnetic field is also lopsided and doesn't go out the poles like ours does, said NASA chief scientist Jim Green. It also is the only planet that doesn't have its interior heat escape from the core. It has rings like Saturn, albeit faint ones.

"It's very strange," said Carnegie Institution planetary scientist Scott Sheppard, who wasn't part of the research.



This image made from video provided by Durham University astronomy researcher Jacob Kegerreis shows a computer simulation generated by the open-source code SWIFT that depicts an object crashing into the planet Uranus.

The computer simulations show that the collision and reshaping of Uranus — maybe enveloping some or all of the rock that hit it — happened in a matter of hours, Kegerreis said. He produced an animation showing the violent crash and its aftermath. It's also possible that the big object that knocked over Uranus is still lurking in the

solar system too far for us to see, said Green. It would explain some of the orbits of the planet and fit with a theory that a missing planet X is circling the sun well beyond Pluto, he said. Green said it's possible that a lot of smaller space rocks — the size of Pluto — pushed Uranus over, but Kegerreis' research and Sheppard point to a single

huge unknown suspect. Green said a single impact "is the right thinking." The collision happened 3 billion to 4 billion years ago, likely before the larger moons of Uranus formed. Instead there was a disk of stuff that would eventually come together to form moons. And when that happened, Uranus' odd tilt acted like a gravity tidal

Associated Press

force pushing those five large moons to the same tilt, Kegerreis said.

It also would have created an icy shell that kept Uranus' inner heat locked in, Kegerreis said. (Uranus' surface is minus 357 degrees, or minus 216 Celsius.)

Ice is key with Uranus and its neighbor Neptune. A little more than a decade ago, NASA reclassified those two planets as "ice giants," no longer lumping them with the other large planets of the solar system, the gas giants Saturn and Jupiter.

Pluto, which is tiny, farther from the sun and not even officially a planet anymore, has been explored more than Uranus and Neptune. They only got brief flybys by Voyager 2, the space probe that entered interstellar space last month.

Uranus and Neptune "are definitely the least understood planets," Sheppard said.

But that may change. A robotic probe to one or both of those planets was high up on the last wish-list from top planetary scientists and likely will be at or near the top of the next list.

Uranus was named for the Greek god of the sky. □



This July 6, 2011, file photo shows a grizzly bear roaming near Beaver Lake in Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

Ruling that blocked grizzly bear hunt plans appealed by U.S.

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. government attorneys filed notice Friday that they are appealing a court ruling that restored protections for grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies and blocked plans to hold the first public hunts for the animals in decades.

The legal move challenges a September ruling from U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen in Montana. He reversed a 2017 decision that had lifted threatened species protections for more than 700 bears in and around Yellowstone National Park.

The ruling came as Wyoming and Idaho were on

the cusp of hosting their first public hunts for grizzly bears in the Lower 48 U.S. states since 1991.

Wildlife advocates and the Crow Indian Tribe had asked Christensen to intervene.

They persuaded the judge that the species remains in peril due to continued threats from climate change and habitat loss. But federal biologists contend Yellowstone-area grizzlies have made a full recovery after a decades-long restoration effort. They want to turn over management of the animals to state wildlife agencies that say hunting is one way to better address rising numbers of bear attacks on

livestock.

The population has rebounded from just 136 animals when they were granted federal protections in 1975. Grizzlies in recent years have moved into many areas where they were absent for decades.

That's meant more dangerous run-ins with people such as a Wyoming hunting guide who was killed earlier this month in an attack by a pair of grizzly bears.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Jennifer Strickland referred questions about the case to the Department of Justice, which did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. □

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In a record year, the movie theater strikes back

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The movie theater was dead, they said. After ticket sales slumped in 2017, due largely to the worst summer season in more than a decade, pundits far and wide predicted the hastening demise of moviegoing, an inevitable casualty to the rise of streaming.

This year, the movies flipped the script.

This weekend, as "Aquaman," "Bumblebee" and "Mary Poppins Returns" arrive in theaters, ticket sales will reach a new record for the year, passing the previous 2016 high of \$11.4 billion. Driven in part by zeitgeist-grabbing cultural events like "Black Panther," "Crazy Rich Asians" and even documentaries like "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" the box office is expected to end up around \$11.8 billion for the year. The overall domestic gross is up nearly 9 percent from last year; ticket sales are up about 6 percent.

And it's not just in North America. Propelled by Chinese moviegoers, global ticket sales should, for the second time ever, exceed \$40 billion. Saudi Arabia declared itself open for business to Hollywood, after more than 35 years without theaters. In the United Kingdom, cinemas are headed to their best year since 1971.

"This year serves to confirm that the movie theater business is strong and growing in the long term, even though it can be cyclical in the short term," said John Fithian, president of the National Organization of Theater Owners, the trade organization known as NATO. "Last summer of 2017, when there just weren't very many movies coming out that had any traction, we confronted the inevitable story about the impending death of the movie theater business. And we said back then: It's all about short-term product supply."

"We knew that once the movies came back, we would be fine," said Fithian. Even in a year where "Star



This image released by Marvel Studios shows, front row from left, Danai Gurira, Chadwick Boseman, Chris Evans, Scarlet Johansson and Sebastian Stan in a scene from "Avengers: Infinity War." Associated Press

Wars" flopped, the hits have indeed returned, even if they've come from some predictable places. All of the year's top 10 movies were either sequels, reboots or based on a comic book. Even this year's Oscar front runner, "A Star Is Born" (\$376.6 million worldwide and counting for Warner Bros.), is a remake. The top three films of the year — "Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War," "Incredibles 2" — all come from market-leader Disney, which is also in the process of gobbling up 20th Century Fox.

But there were some less likely hits, too. Mid-budgeted films like "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Halloween," "Creed II" and the year's best-selling original movie, "A Quiet Place," had a significant role in driving the record box office. For the first time ever, four documentaries — "RBG," "Free Solo," "Three Identical Strangers," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" — each cleared \$10 million. Surprise successes — a franchise-birthing "Spider-Man" spinoff ("Venom"), a well-reviewed "Transformers" movie ("Bumblebee") — outnumbered the disappointments ("Skyscraper," "Robin Hood").

Above all, the movies were often in the center of the cultural conversation, never more so than with the

history-making "Black Panther," which became the third-highest grossing domestic release ever (\$700.1 million) not accounting for inflation.

Hollywood executives say the year has demonstrated that 2017 was an aberration.

"When the experts out there were talking about the end of theatrical moviegoing, I just didn't buy that to begin with," said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal Pictures, which had hits in "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," "The Grinch" and "Halloween." "It was just some scheduling moves that happened along with some movies that just underperformed. People want to go out. They want the social experience. They want to be in theaters. And we proved that exponentially this year."

The box-office rebound came in a year during which Netflix launched its most ambitious original movie slate, premiering some 70 new films. Though Netflix this fall relented to a degree by playing three of its films ("Roma," "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" and "Bird Box") exclusively in theaters before premiering on its streaming service, Netflix and exhibitors remain at odds over the benefits of the traditional theatrical

window.

Yet there is a growing sense that Netflix may not be public enemy No. 1 for movie theaters, after all. In 2018, Netflix has gained millions of subscribers, just as movie theaters have surged. Co-existence is possible. Last month, a NATO survey found that 33 percent of moviegoers who see nine or more movies a year also spend 15 hours per week on streaming platforms.

"We have maintained for years that streaming in the home is not taking away from the moviegoing experience," said Fithian. "If anything, streaming in the home is damaging other forms of home entertainment. Cable television, for example. DVD sales, for example."

Streaming will only be more omnipresent in 2019, when Disney and Warner Bros. are set to debut their own Netflix-like services. But both studios remain resolutely devoted to exhibition and in releasing some of their biggest releases in traditional slow periods on the calendar. The year's biggest movie, "Black Panther," opened in February. Three of Warner Bros.' top performers — "The Meg," "Crazy Rich Asians" and "The Nun" — benefited from the typically quiet dog-days of summer.

"There were some really good movies that were spread out through the year," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution chief.

"That's the real takeaway: Make good movies, people will come."

But disruption is still at the door. Subscription services remade the moviegoing experience, led by the swift rise and fall of MoviePass, which took credit for the box-office revival before its inexpensive pricing structure proved unsustainable. MoviePass ran out of cash, repeatedly revamped its business model and descended into chaos, lawsuits and even a fraud investigation.

The box office still chugged along (Fithian calls MoviePass' impact "overblown") and other subscription services (notably one by AMC, the world's largest chain) entered the fray.

Other threats to the movie theater loom. When Disney's acquisition of Fox is made official, there will be one less major studio in Hollywood. Further consolidation is expected, something Fithian grants "poses a challenge" for exhibitors that depend on a steady supply of movies. But he pointed to others that have picked up the slack: STX, Annapurna, A24, Bleecker St., Amazon and Apple, which last month partnered with A24 for a slate of films. Whether 2019 will continue the box-office trend or see a repeat of last year will come down, as it always does, to the movies. Analysts are bullish, predicting another record-setting year thanks to a Disney-heavy lineup including sure-fire blockbusters "Avengers: Endgame," "Captain Marvel," "Frozen 2" and "Star Wars: Episode IX."

"On paper, that year is going to make this year look like small potatoes," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore.

Of course, similar predictions were made for 2017, too. That's the problem with movie scripts. They can always be rewritten. □

Christmas carols favored over Billboard hits

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" is the highest-charting Billboard Hot 100 holiday hit in 60 years, but Americans still prefer hearing carols such as "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells," a new poll shows.

With Christmas next week, 12 percent of Americans named "Silent Night" as their favorite holiday song followed by "Jingle Bells" at 8 percent, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The open-ended question showed that "It's a Wonderful Life" is a fan favorite among holiday films, followed closely by a mix of recent comedies and classics.



In this Dec. 31, 2017 file photo, Mariah Carey performs at the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square in New York.

Associated Press

Nine percent of respondents listed the 1946 Frank Capra classic "It's a Wonderful Life" as their favorite film. Jimmy Stewart plays a

conscientious family man who faces a seemingly insurmountable debt and attempts to end his life, but is stopped by a guardian an-

gel on Christmas Eve.

"It's a story of redemption," said Michael Germana, 65, who called the film his favorite. The California native is also among the 21 percent of adults 60 and older who choose "Silent Night," which was first performed 200 years ago.

"It's a song of inclusion," Germana said. "There's no strife."

Americans under 30 are more likely than those older to name "Jingle Bells" (12 percent) and Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" (7 percent) as their favorite. Carey's song only trails the 1958 song "The Chipmunk Song" by David Seville as the highest-charting hit on Billboard. Other popular songs on Billboard charts include Kenny G's "Auld Lang Syne" and "This One's for the Children" by New Kids on the Block.

"All I Want for Christmas Is You" was named by 3 percent of adults overall, while "Baby It's Cold Outside," which has drawn criticism in the #MeToo era and led some stations to stop playing it, was named by 5 per-

cent.

There were more contemporary choices among respondents when it came to film. Seven percent chose 1983's "A Christmas Story" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," but most people didn't specify whether they preferred the 1966 animated television special or the 2000 live-action adaption starring Jim Carrey. A computer animated version, "The Grinch" has earned more than \$239 million domestically since its early November release.

Six percent selected the 2003 comedy "Elf" starring Will Ferrell, the Chevy Chase-led "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and "Home Alone," a 1990 box office hit starring Macaulay Culkin as the burglar-thwarting Kevin McCallister.

Also listed as a favorite by 2 percent of respondents: the 1988 Bruce Willis action film "Die Hard."

Overall, Seventy movies or Christmas specials and 107 songs were cited as holiday favorites by poll respondents. □



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THE MAGIC FLUTE SATURDAY
The Metropolitan Opera DEC. 22: 1:00PM

HAILEE STEINFELD | DYLAN O'BRIEN
BUMBLEBEE
MON-THU: 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI: 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT: 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN: 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

CXC
MON-FRI: 6:40
SAT-SUN: 1:20 | 4:40

THE MET OPERA
MON-THU: 5:45 | 8:15
FRI: 5:45 | 8:15 | 10:45
SAT: 3:15 | 5:45 | 8:15 | 10:45
SUN: 3:15 | 5:45 | 8:15

JENNIFER LOPEZ | MILO VENTIMIGLIA
SECOND ACT
MON-THU: 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:20
FRI: 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT: 2:30 | 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN: 2:30 | 4:20 | 7:10 | 9:30

JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD
AQUAMAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN: 4:55 | 7:50
FRI-SAT: 4:55 | 7:50 | 10:45

CXC
MON-SUN: 3:45 | 9:05

SPIDER-MAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI: 4:10
SAT: 2:40 | 5:25 | 8:30 | 11:25
SUN: 2:40 | 5:25 | 8:30 | 11:25

JAKE JOHNSON | HAILEE STEINFELD
SPIDER-MAN: SPIDER-VERSE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI: 4:10
SAT-SUN: 1:40 | 4:10

OZUNA | CLARISA MOLINA
CREED 2
SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN: 7:30 | 9:35
FRI-SAT: 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40

MICHAEL B. JORDAN | SYLVESTER STALLONE
CREED 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN: 6:40 | 9:20

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH | CAMERON SEELY
THE GRINCH
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
SAT-SUN: 1:00 | 2:35

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Symphonic touches give new spin to old Carpenters records

By ANDREW DALTON

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, Calif. (AP) — Karen Carpenter has now been gone longer than she was alive.

Yet her best work may have just been released, at least according to her brother, arranger and performing partner, Richard, who has made it his mission to keep her singing voice resonant and relevant since her death 35 years ago.

In the new collection, "Carpenters with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra," Richard Carpenter gave new string arrangements to many of the duo's classic recordings from the late 1960s through the early 1980s, including "Close to You" and "Superstar," and pushed his sister's unmistakable voice even more to the fore than it already was.

"I think it's the best album we've ever made," Carpenter, 72, told The Associated Press in an interview at his Southern California home this week.

Longtime fans are enthused by the collection, which includes the holiday touch of

"Merry Christmas Darling," the December staple that Carpenter says was "one of our best records" regardless of season.

The album debuted at No. 52 on the Billboard charts in the U.S. after its Dec. 7 release by A&M/UMe and shot straight to the Top 10 in the United Kingdom and Japan, both Carpenters' strongholds from the start. A vinyl release will follow in February.

Carpenter wasn't immediately gung-ho when Universal Music asked if he wanted to create an album for the "Royal Philharmonic" series, whose previous editions have included Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin. But as he considered it, he realized he could make small changes to the duo's already largely orchestral recordings that would make a big difference.

"It gave me a chance to change a couple of arrangements a certain way that I pretty much wanted to do for many a year," he said. "They're just either augmentations to already existing parts — just more



In this March 17, 1971 file photo, Richard and Karen Carpenters of The Carpenters pose with their Grammy during the 13th annual 1970 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

players playing the parts — or different little things that I heard to an existing arrangement."

Carpenter conducted the 80-piece London-based symphony himself at Abbey Road Studios, and he oversaw the mixing, giving him another chance to play his natural background role in support of the unforgettable alto voice of his sister, who died of complications from anorexia in 1983 at

age 32.

"I feel Karen and I were born with talents to complement the other," Carpenter said. In some cases — like an angelic new piccolo trumpet solo on "Goodbye To Love" — his changes leap out to the listener. But most of them might even go unnoticed, and that was a deliberate choice.

"The last thing I wanted to do was overdo it," Carpenter said.

He also got to fix old quirks, the result of having to rush out albums at the height of the group's popularity.

"Some things were done in a bigger hurry than I would have preferred. There are certain little oddball things that made their way through. It's small, but if you have the ear to hear it, you hear it. Like the air-conditioning rumble in the opening lines of 'Yesterday Once More,'" Carpenter said. "All that's gone now."

He also took away some of the noise and reverb around his sister's voice, and made her louder and clearer.

"I pushed her up even more in the mix than in the original," he said. "And it was already pretty up there in the original. She sounds, of course, better than she ever did."

The overall result is much more than a mere collection of singles, it's a legitimate studio album, with newly composed overture, interludes and introductions, a carefully chosen sequence and songs that flow together. □

Museum acquires statue, complete with glitter, nail polish

By MARTHA WAGGONER

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — An impressive marble sculpture of the first king of Israel, which disappeared from public view for 150 years, has been acquired by a North Carolina art museum from a boarding school in England.

But before the sculpture titled "Saul Under the Influence of Evil" is installed in the permanent collection of the North Carolina Museum of Art, conservators must remove the glitter stuck in the crevices of the statue's clothing and remnants of what might be black fingernail polish.

It seems the students of Rendcomb College, a private boarding school, liked to dress up Saul as various characters during the holidays, including Gandalf from "Lord of the Rings" and Santa Claus, said John Coffey, the museum's curator of American and modern art.

"It became a mascot for the school," Coffey said. "Generations of students had fond memories of it."

The public can watch the conservators as they clean the statue in the museum's East Building. Conservators will be working on "Saul" most weekday mornings through the spring of 2019. American sculptor William Wetmore Story carved "Saul" in 1865 in Rome, and it was shown that same year in Dublin after Pope Pius IX paid for it to be exhibited there, Coffey said. When art historians began reviewing Story's career some 100 years later, they couldn't find "Saul," he said. Turns out, Sir Francis Goldsmid — the first Jew to become an English barrister — had bought the statue and taken it to his country

house in Gloucestershire. The house later became Rendcomb College, which sold the statue to the museum earlier this year for an undisclosed amount.

Since he became a curator at the art museum 30 years ago, Coffey had searched for a major monument marble to fill in a gap in the museum's American collection. He didn't want the statues of attractive women that were typically available so when a New York dealer contacted him seven years ago about "Saul," he was immediately intrigued.

But that deal fell through when the school backed out, Coffey said. He then heard back in 2017 from the dealer, who said the school was again interested selling the statue. The school sold the statue to the museum earlier this year.

"Something like this may

never come up on the market again," Coffey said. "I never thought I'd have a second chance at it."

He describes "Saul" as "one of the most memorable sculptures made by an American in the 19th century." The Bible tells the story that Saul disobeyed God and was then afflicted with an evil spirit.

Only David could soothe Saul, with his singing and harp-playing.

Story said his sculpture depicted the king at the moment when the evil spirit enters him with one hand clutching his beard and his other hand reaching for his dagger.

"You're put in the position of being David when you confront this statue," Coffey said. "He's just glowering at you from this pedestal."

Anne Faircloth, daughter of the late U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth and a member



In this Dec. 12, 2018 photo, objects conservators Marianne Schmeisser, left, and Corey Riley clean the base of the statue "Saul under the Influence of the Evil Spirit" at the North Carolina Museum of Art, in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

of the museum's board of trustees, and her husband, Frederick Beaujeu-Dufour, bought the statue in honor of Coffey. □

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